COLONIAL REPORTS.—ANNUAL.

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No. 26.

ST. HELENA.

ANNUAL REPORT FOR 1890.

(For Report for 1889, *see* No. 118, Old Series.)

Presented to both Houses of Parliament by Command of Her Majesty.

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ST. HELENA.

[For Report for 1889, *see* No. 118, Old Series.]

GOVERNOR GREY WILSON to LORD KNUTSFORD.

The Castle, St. Helena,
July 16, 1891.

MY LORD,

I HAVE the honour to transmit the Blue Book of this Island for the year 1890.

2. Although the financial aspect disclosed by these returns is not quite so disquieting as I had anticipated, the general condition of the Island justifies the most gloomy forebodings. The revenue was 8,728*l.*, and the expenditure 9,032*l.*; so that we exceeded our income by only 304*l.* The revenue was nominally 220*l.* more than in 1889; but very nearly this sum may be written off on both sides of the account as due to the receipt and refund of duty upon coal now supplied to Her Majesty's ships by local contractors, the naval yard having been abolished. Nearly every item of the revenue, except customs, shows a steady shrinkage; and but for two leaky ships, which yielded a large revenue, the customs would also have shown a startling decline. Thus it is that, although our financial condition is not so desperate as was anticipated, the state of the Island is no better than my fears led me to anticipate, and is by no means so satisfactory as the revenue appears to indicate. Work has been very scarce. The high rates charged by the mail steamers for passages to the Cape have restricted emigration; and poverty and suffering, though bravely borne, have in consequence engulfed far too many. Our solitary and isolated position, if strategically important, affords us none of the advantages which generally attend thereon. Too insignificant and remote from the mother country to arouse any general interest, we have for many years been the plaything of fate; but lately we have aroused some interest in the Cape of Good Hope because our apparently defenceless condition appeared to be a source of danger to that Colony.

Taxation.

The Tax Ordinance came into operation upon the first of January; and, although its enactment was attended with considerable opposition, there does not appear to have been any friction in its application.

The Ordinance, indeed, made no increase whatever in the taxation; while it afforded relief, to the extent of nearly one-half of the previous licences, to the owners of fishing and passage boats, who stood in very urgent need of assistance. It also reduced the tax for a ginger beer or tea licence from 3*l.* to 5*s.* The water rate, however, was slightly increased (it yielded 162*l.* in 1889 and 187*l.* in 1890); but only because the general reduction in the Poor Board valuation, upon which the water rate is assessed, had unduly reduced the revenue from water.

Water in St. Helena is so good and plentiful as to be hardly appreciated at its proper value. The very extensive plant by which it is distributed, not only to Jamestown, but to the villages of the Briars, Ruperts, Half Tree Hollow, and to Longwood, is a heritage of the East India Company's liberality, which will necessitate a considerably larger contribution from the public than the present to replace it, or a return to the now forgotten inconvenience of fetching water from a public tank. The highest water rate charged for a large house and garden is 2*l.* a year; the lowest, *i.e.* for houses of the freehold value of 100*l.*, is 2*s.* 6*d.*; for which small sums occupiers can have a constant supply of water. At the Briars and Ruperts very little restraint is now placed upon quantity; while at Half Tree Hollow every cottager has about 40 to 50 gallons put daily, at Government expense, into a barrel near his cottage upon payment of 2*s.* 6*d.* a year. I would invite those who grumble to compare this figure with the rates of almost any other Colony, or to picture the sometimes desperate scarcity of water in British Honduras, the Gold Coast, and Ascension; and they cannot fail to admit that in regard to water St. Helena has much to be very thankful for.

Local Bodies.

It has hitherto been found impossible to excite any interest in regard to the Health or Markets Boards. Year after year the Sheriff reports that the appeal to the electors has elicited no response, and year after year the Governor nominates the Boards. It is due to the present Board of Health, who have now held office by reappointment since the passing of the Public Health Ordinance in 1889, to state that they have displayed very considerable energy, patience, and perseverance, in carrying out some, at least, of the reforms of the new law; but, so long as the inhabitants of Jamestown view with apathetic indifference all sanitary science, all questions of hygiene, and the, morally and physically, vastly important subject of overcrowding closely connected therewith, so long must a grievous stigma rest upon the Island—a stigma the more poignant by reason of the great social and educational advantages which have long been enjoyed. Our splendid climate no doubt minimizes dangers which might otherwise develope into crushing catastrophes; but no country, and far less St. Helena, posing as a sanitorium, can afford to continue

to despise or ignore the plain, though still feeble, warnings of Nature.

The election of the Poor Board has never failed to arouse interest, because it is a tangible and easily-recognised purse lightener; but to bring home to every householder that the indirect taxation resulting from a contempt of sanitary laws may be heavier and less seasonably levied than a voluntary contribution is a problem demanding very earnest attention, and one which cannot be too frequently forced upon a public who show no appreciation of the vast fields of discovery laid bare by modern sanitary science.

Public Debt.

The debt of the Island at the end of the year was 6,408*l.* Of this sum 1,250*l.* is the balance of a loan of 19,500*l.*, raised between 1868 and 1872 at 7 per cent., of which 1,000*l.* was repaid during the year; and 5,158*l.* is a loan made by the Imperial Parliament in 1872, free of interest.

Assets and Liabilities.

On the 31st of December the assets of the Colony were 11,831*l.*, and the current liabilities were 11,018*l.* The assets, therefore, exceeded the liabilities by 813*l.*

Military.

In January 1889 a detachment of Artillery was sent from here to mount the heavy guns at Sierra Leone, and shortly afterwards (April 1889) another detachment went to Mauritius; and just before the close of that year the removal of the remainder of the battery (save a few caretakers) was accomplished. The reduction of the garrison not only directly stimulated emigration to the Cape, but it left those who remained poorer than before. In my opinion the money circulated by the officers and men of the garrison bears this direct ratio to emigration. Replace the former garrison, and emigration will be checked; leave the strength as it is, and emigration will continue; remove the Imperial troops, and emigration must advance with a rush, and be aided by Government, for it will not be possible for any Government to leave the inhabitants to the terrible sufferings which must then overwhelm them.

In October Colonel Maclean (late R.A.) came out to the Island to report upon the prospects of a Militia, and after a careful and systematic investigation he made a report which is now under the consideration of Her Majesty's Government. It seems impossible that any further information can be desired. It is much to be hoped that an early settlement of the matter may be arrived at, and that the present uncertainty and disquietude may finally be put an end to.

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Public Works.

The expenditure upon works and buildings was 1,090*l.*, a sum slightly in excess of the estimate but counterbalanced by a larger reimbursement in aid than was anticipated. The principal works of the year was the thorough scraping and cleaning of the iron water mains supplying the Town and the village of Ruperts. These two water supplies are entirely distinct both as to source and course. The one to Ruperts was raised from a very indifferent to a first-rate one, and the work in town has greatly improved the pressure available at fires and has increased the supply available for calling ships. A serious collapse of the sea-wall and road at the narrowest part of the wharf took place, and the difficulty of making a new foundation below low-water mark caused, in a Colony without a Colonial Engineer, some anxiety. A dam having been first constructed to keep the sea out, the foundation, laid in Medina cement, was rapidly completed during low waters, and our anxiety was at an end. Mr. Woodman, the Foreman of Works, deserves great credit for the manner in which he carried out this work, the whole cost of which did not exceed 100*l.*, including the blasting and transport of about 600 tons of stone used upon the dam and upon a small breakwater to protect it.

Some renovations and considerable general repairs were effected upon the public buildings. Cypress wood has been used exclusively upon public works since 1888, when I first introduced it; and even in those buildings which were infested with white ants no trace has been found of an attack having been made on it.

The hospital drainage system upon being opened was found to include a defective cesspit and to be generally in a most deplorable condition, and had to be entirely renewed. Doulton's pipes and fittings of the most modern description were used, and the new sanitary arrangements are fully abreast of modern requirements.

Legislation.

Five Ordinances were enacted, and one Order of Her Majesty in Council was made, during the year.

No. 1. Provides for the custody and care of prisoners removed to St. Helena to undergo their imprisonment.

Under this Ordinance three prisoners from Zululand were brought to the Island.

Nos. 2 and 3 are Supply Ordinances.

No. 4. Provides for the taking of a census in April 1891, and upon any subsequent day which the Governor may notify by proclamation. It is not in contemplation at present to have more than a decennial enumeration, but it appeared desirable to obviate the necessity for future census legislation. The schedule to the Ordinance can be varied by the Governor so as to secure any information which hereafter it may be thought desirable to collect.

No. 5. Prohibits any Zulu not provided with a pass from landing in St. Helena.

By Order in Council of the 1st of May the Supreme Court of St. Helena was constituted a Court for Divorce and Matrimonial Causes. The jurisdiction extends only to marriages solemnized in St. Helena between persons of whom one was or shall be domiciled in St. Helena at the time of the marriage.

In 1858 an Ordinance was passed extending to this Island the jurisdiction conferred in 1857 upon the Court of Divorce in England; but this Ordinance was disallowed by Her Majesty upon the ground that neither the Judicial Establishment nor the Bar was such as to justify the entrusting to St. Helena of the working of such very delicate machinery.

The enforced postponement, affecting St. Helena, doubtless, in common with many other Colonies, has, I think, been salutary; for, although our Judicial Establishment and Bar cannot be said to have progressed as is the case in other Colonies, and have, it must be admitted, even retrograded, yet the interval has enabled the laws of divorce and matrimonial causes to be better understood and appreciated generally, and the light of the precedents created by the English Court has prevented a perhaps too generous application of those remedial powers which Sir E. D. Hay appears in 1858 to have regarded as already necessary.

Council.

Captain A. E. Mackenzie, of the East Yorkshire Regiment, commanding the troops, was a member of Council until June, when Major A. A. Boggs, of the same regiment, relieved him. Mr. Saul Solomon was appointed a member of Council in March.

Civil Establishment.

Mr. R. L. Antrobus administered the Government from the 5th of November 1889 until the 8th of June 1890. I returned from England on the 8th of June, and was sworn in as Governor on the 18th of July.

Mr. R. M. L. Pritchard, the Harbour Master, retired upon pension in March, being succeeded by the second Officer of Customs, Mr. G. C. Bruce. Mr. Herbert Knipe was appointed third Officer of Customs.

The assistant printer, William Bagley, left the service; and Thomas Adams, a policeman, retired on pension.

Pensions.

Two pensioners, Mr. J. M. McDaniel, who retired in 1864, and Mahomed Troomal, who retired in 1845, died during the year. The former was 78 years old, and the latter about 84. Both cases bear witness to the excellence of our climate, which appears especially to exercise a conservative influence upon our pensioners. We have still upon the pension list an officer who was born in the last century, and several who are over 80 years of age. The total

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of the list had declined at the end of the year under review to 1,901*l.*, a sum still very nearly a quarter of our entire expenditure.

Population.

The population as ascertained by the census taken since the close of the year is a little under 4,000, of whom rather more than half are women; but, as I hope shortly to write a separate report upon the census, I will not here enter into any details. Owing to emigration, our population contains an undue proportion of aged, infirm, and children; but even these adverse circumstances have only occasioned a death rate of 16 per 1,000, if seamen who were landed ill (and generally very ill) and the victims of the great fall of rocks in 1890, are excluded.

Education.

The school attendance shows a falling off of 50, as compared with the previous year (869 to 819); but a large part of this is doubtless due to the emigration which has taken place. The efficiency of the schools was fully maintained, and the examinations disclosed genuine progress and good steady work. The Rev. F. H. Baker and the Rev. S. J. Ellis, the Inspectors of the Government schools, have devoted much time and labour to educational work, and deserve the grateful thanks of the Government for their gratuitous services.

It is, perhaps, not fair to compare St. Helena, with its very small higher education, with England and her very large one; but, after due allowance has been made for that fact, it cannot be regarded as unsatisfactory that in St. Helena more than one-fifth of the entire population are receiving education in elementary schools.

How best to diminish the quantity of parrot lore and develope that of deduced and applied knowledge is a question I cannot too earnestly press upon the attention of school teachers.

Imports and Exports.

Our exports consist of a few hides and a little wool, but the figures under the head of imports deserve notice. Not long ago an English paper called particular attention to the capacity of St. Helena as a beer-consuming Colony. The following tabl shows the consumption per head of liquor, tobacco, and sugar:—

	United Kingdom.	St. Helena.
Beer - - - -	28·4 gallons	25 bottles
Spirits - - - -	5·5 bottles	2·6 „
Wines - - - -	2·1 „	12 „
Tobacco - - - -	1·42 lbs.	1·75 lbs.
Sugar - - - -	69·91 „	67 „

We may, however, fairly credit passing ships and the sailors of Her Majesty's war vessels with some considerable proportion of this consumption.

The value of the imports was 31,958*l.* and of the exports 325*l.*; in neither of which have I included the whale oil, valued at 13,433*l.*, transhipped here. The imports were 3,000*l.* in excess of those in 1889.

Shipping.

407 vessels communicated with the Island, of which 211 called and 196 were boarded by licensed traders. These figures are 142 below those of the previous year.

Criminal Statistics.

Under this head the figures are very satisfactory. 142 offences were reported to the police; 113 persons were summarily convicted; and in the Supreme Court there was only one conviction, an assault of by no means a serious description.

Serious crime is almost unknown here; but we are troubled with an unusually large proportion of juvenile offenders whose destructive capacity is unlimited.

The gaol was free from illness during this year.

Meteorological.

The rainfall in 1890 was 35 inches, or five inches above the average for the country. In 1842 only 19 inches fell, while 90 inches fell in 1845; but of late years we have fortunately experienced no such excessive variations. Four-sevenths of the year may be generally expected to be fine.

Savings Bank.

3,762*l.* was deposited during the year, and 1,624*l.* withdrawn. The amount to the credit of the depositors rose from 8,060*l.* to 10,393*l.*, and the number of depositors from 94 to 112, as compared with the previous year; but, as there is no other bank in the Island, and no limit is now placed upon the amount which may be deposited, these figures cannot be taken as representing the savings of people. The net profit upon the transactions of the year was 33*l.* 16*s.* 10*d.*, the amount invested being 9,575*l.*

Post Office.

Although the Blue Book takes no cognisance of this Department, which is I think to be regretted, I venture to include a notice of it in my report, as being one of the few, financially, bright spots in our otherwise declining prosperity.

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The gross revenue was 870*l.*, the largest during the past ten years; and the gross expenditure was 192*l.*, the lowest during the same period. 14,934 letters and 2,763 books and papers were sent from the Island. 10,592 letters were received from South Africa; but no record exists of the number of letters received from England, which I estimate at 17,000. The mail service, performed alternately by the Union and Castle Steamship Companies, was most irregular and very unsatisfactory; but there are not wanting signs of the possibility of new steamship companies shortly competing for the South African trade, and indeed the very rapid development of that country renders it certain that the existing allied lines cannot for long maintain their present monopoly. Whether the inevitable competition will benefit us remains to be seen. I am not without hope.

I mention with regret that it has not been found possible to adopt the 2½*d.* rate for correspondence from the Island now almost universally adopted in the Empire. The present 6*d.* rate is a heavy strain upon our very poor population, all of whom have many relatives and friends who have emigrated to South Africa. No satisfactory measure for replacing the deficiency which the reduction would occasion could be devised, and this most desirable reform has had, like many others, to be postponed.

Great Fall of Rocks.

Upon the 17th of April about 1,500 tons of rock fell from a height of 600 feet upon the town, wrecking 14 houses, killing instantly 9 people in their beds, injuring 7 seriously and many others slightly. To alleviate the distress, and in some measure to recoup the loss inflicted upon the victims, who were nearly all of the poorest class, a subscription was started. The appeal for funds was well responded to in the Island, and received liberal support from both the steamship companies and from a few gentlemen in England interested in the Island. Many St. Helenians resident in South Africa also came to our assistance.

A sum of 290*l.* was thus realised, nearly all of which was distributed, and with the very small remainder a memorial drinking fountain has been erected in the main street of Jamestown.

Messrs. Walter Macfarlane and Co., of Glasgow, supplied a large canopied fountain for a purely nominal sum; Messrs. Ockenden and Mayper brought it out free of freight, and the Government have borne the cost of erection in view of the great advantage which the fountain will be to the Town.

In a tropical climate drinking fountains are an inestimable boon, and I hope some day we may secure one for the upper part of the Town, not by a further catastrophe such as that which the present fountain commemorates, but as the gift of some past resident or friend anxious to have his memory perpetuated in the gratitude of his countrymen.

Conclusion.

Mr. R. L. Antrobus's admirable report upon the Blue Book for 1889 goes beyond the usual scope of such reports, and is in fact a general review of the condition and prospects of the Island, collated from the facts and figures not of one but of many years. That such a review should be made from time to time is most desirable. It infuses vitality and interest into figures which taken by themselves are generally dry-as-dust, and it forces upon public attention comparisons and deductions most necessary for the due appreciation of the existing state of affairs.

It is not often that an official of the Colonial Office emerges for a short time from the atmosphere of Downing Street into that of the Colonial Empire upon official duty; but I am convinced that the benefit, not only to the Colony concerned but also to the Colonial Office, is such as to render it most desirable that such a transfusion should be an event of more frequent occurrence.

I have, &c.

(Signed) W. GREY WILSON,
Governor.

NOTE.—In consequence of the arrival of the Lismore Castle five days before time, this despatch has, I regret to state, been put together very roughly.—W. G. W.

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No. 63.

ST. HELENA.

[For Report for 1890, *see* Colonial Report (Annual) No. 26.]

Governor GREY WILSON to LORD KNUTSFORD.

The Castle, St. Helena,
August 8, 1892.

MY LORD,

I HAVE the honour to transmit the Blue Book of this Island for the year 1891.

The gloomy forebodings to which I gave expression in my report upon the Blue Book for 1890, were, I very much regret to state, more than justified by the year under review.

The revenue was 6,874*l.* (1,854*l.* less than in 1890), and the expenditure 8,287*l.* (745*l.* less than in 1890), so that we exceeded our revenue by the comparatively very large sum of 1,413*l.*

The chief falling off in the revenue occurred under the heads of "Customs" and "Land Revenue," and was, in a great measure, the result of the reduction of the garrison. I had anticipated a deficit of 802*l.*, and, by very stringent and, in some cases, almost detrimental economies, a saving of 365*l.* upon the authorised expenditure was effected. But no efforts could have averted the result which the collapse of the revenue entailed.

The condition of the island in August was such as to excite very grave anxiety; work was almost unobtainable; with the shipping nothing was doing; the potato crop was indifferent; and starvation faced many Under these circumstances, I started relief work for women and children only, so as to leave the men ready for anything that might turn up. In St. Helena, a few hours may suffice to dispel despair. The arrival of a ship needing coal, or of a man-of-war, or of a ship in distress to land cargo, may at any moment offer work to those in urgent need of it. It so happened that, within three weeks of the commencement of the relief work, a man-of-war came in, and before the close of the year several had arrived in rapid succession. I was thus relieved of all immediate cause for anxiety.

Taxation.

No alteration whatever took place in taxation during the year, and nothing was outstanding under this head at the close of the year.

Although in 1890 I removed about one half of the tax upon boats, boatmen found it very difficult to earn sufficient even to meet the reduced rates, owing to the scarcity of ships.

Local Bodies.

I regret being unable to record any evidence of the birth of an adequate interest being taken in the matter of sanitation. Until the town community boldly face and attack this subject, they must labour under a grave responsibility.

The general revenue may reasonably be expected to contribute, on account of Government town property, toward the cost of any drainage works that are undertaken; but the greater part of the outlay must be borne by the householders, who would directly benefit by the reformation, and who at present are the chief sufferers from the defects in our sanitary system.

Public Debt.

During the year the last large instalment (1,000*l.*) of the loan of 19,500*l.* raised during the years 1868 to 1872, was paid off, and there only remained, on the 31st of December, the sum of 250*l.* outstanding. This loan, which bears interest at 7 per cent. per annum, was raised by Sir Charles Elliot, and was expended upon the restoration of the Government buildings in town which had been devastated by the white ant.

Viewed from the standpoint of the present financial position of the Colony, it is not open to question that a very much smaller amount should have been made to meet all its needs; but, although this is evident in retrospect, it was doubtless little anticipated at the time.

This debt has been a millstone around the neck of the Colony, and its early, though too late, extinction is a subject for justifiable satisfaction.

In addition to the foregoing 250*l.*, there remained a sum of 5,158*l.* lent to the Colony, without interest, by the Imperial Government in 1872. It has not been possible for the Colony to repay any portion of this loan, and the prospect of its repayment appears more remote to-day than it did six years ago, when I first reached the Island.

Assets and Liabilities.

On the 31st of December the assets of the Colony were 12,580*l.*, and the current liabilities 13,366*l.* The latter therefore exceeded the assets by 786*l.*

In view of the fact that in the previous year the assets exceeded the liabilities by 813*l.*, this cannot be regarded as less than very unsatisfactory.

Military.

The garrison was maintained at the reduced strength of the previous year, namely, one company of the York and Lancaster Regiment, and 17 gunner caretakers in charge of a master gunner.

Some progress was made with the consideration of the question of raising a Militia force, and Lieut.-Colonel Maclean, late R.A., after visiting England for consultations, continued his investigations and reports upon the scheme, which is still engaging the attention of Her Majesty's Government.

Considerable opposition was given to some of the provisions of the draft of a new Militia Ordinance which was published in the island; and it is hoped that the Imperial Government will be prepared to eliminate such of the features, to which objection was taken, as are not material to its efficiency.

Public Works.

The expenditure upon public works was 1,087*l.* This sum, in so far as it slightly exceeded the estimate, was more than counterbalanced by increased reimbursements in aid. The Government executed, and supplied materials for, considerable private sanitary and water service work, an arrangement which so far works advantageously for both parties, and ensures the use of good material.

A considerable sum of money was expended upon the town roads, and upon the thorough repair of the boys' school in town, which has been almost gutted by the White Ant; but beyond this no work of any magnitude was undertaken, the current works fully absorbing the remainder of the vote.

The price paid for transport in this mountainous place enhances considerably the cost of most works.

Legislation.

Three ordinances were passed during the year.

Nos. 1 and 3 are Supply and Supplementary Supply ordinances.

No. 2—"To simplify Conveyancing and Titles to Land"—moved in the direction of a very much needed reform, but the law itself is defective in many points, and will be re-enacted at the earliest possible date.

In addition to the foregoing, Her Majesty's Order in Council of 1st May 1890, instituting a Court for Divorce and Matrimonial Causes in St. Helena, was brought into operation by a Proclamation of the 14th of July 1891, and upon the same date, the Rules and Regulations in Divorce and Matrimonial Causes were made.

New Rules of Procedure in the Supreme Court of the Colony were made on the 21st March 1891, vastly simplifying and cheapening legal process.

New Port and Quarantine Regulations were also framed during the year.

Council.

Major A. A. Boggs, of the East Yorkshire Regiment, commanding the troops, was a member of Council until April, when he left the island, and Captain R. C. A. Howe, of the York and Lancaster Regiment, replaced him upon the Council. Mr. Saul Solomon was absent from the island during the greater part of the year.

Civil Establishment.

Mr. G. C. Bruce, the Harbour Master, went on leave on the 18th April, and in August was appointed Harbour Master in St. Lucia. Mr. J. Boyd acted as Harbour Master durin the year, but the office is still vacant.

The Reverend F. H. Baker was appointed auditor on the 1st of April *vice* Major H. W. B. Bruno, A.S.C.

The Reverend S. J. Ellis, Chaplain to the Civil Hospital and Gaol, and Inspector of the town schools, resigned his appointments on leaving the island in May. He was immediately succeeded by the Reverend Joseph Young as Inspector of schools, and by the Reverend Edwin Hughes, as Chaplain in December.

One constable resigned during the year.

Pensions.

Two pensioners, Owen Buckely, who retired in 1874, and Miss E. Welch, who retired in 1886, died during the year.

The amount for which the Colony was liable for pensions at the close of the year, was 1,848*l.*, or considerably more than one quarter of our total revenue for the year.

The subsidence in our pension roll entirely fails to maintain a pace proportionate to the shrinkage in the general revenue, and all the sacrifices that have been made in the Civil Establishment have failed to enable us to balance our annual account. To illustrate this most forcibly, I would mention that on account of the various offices which I hold, there was paid to pensioned former holders, of some of them only, the sum of 1,156*l.* a year in 1886, and in 1891, 940*l.*

Population.

A census of the population was taken on the night of the 5th of April, the date adopted almost universally throughout the British Empire.

The population, excluding shipping and the garrison, was 3,877, a decrease of 634 as compared with 1881. This decrease is due entirely to emigration, as the birth largely exceeded the death rate.

The proportion of males to females has been steadily decreasing since 1861, and by this census there were only 84·4 males to every 100 females.

The birth-rate during the year was 28·6, and the death-rate 13·4 per 1,000.

The American vessels engaged in whale fishery in the South Atlantic absorb a somewhat large proportion of our able-bodied men, and, after satisfying their demands, there only remain 377 men between the ages 17 and 40 available for the local militia.

The census disclosed some lamentable over-crowding; 219 families were housed in as many rooms, and of these, two families numbered no less than 13 each; 4 others numbered 10 each; while considerably more than half the population had only two rooms to each family.

The live stock return shows a slight decline during the decade.

As the census of the island has formed the subject of a special report, which I transmitted to your Lordship with my despatch, No. 70, of the 10th December last, it is perhaps not desirable that I should now deal with the subject at greater length.

Education.

The number of scholars on the rolls shows a slight increase as compared with the previous year (819 to 837), and the average attendance was well maintained.

The cause of education sustained a serious loss by the departure of the town inspector, the Reverend S. J. Ellis, who for four years had devoted much of his time and energy to the voluntary labour which he admirably discharged. The Government were so fortunate as to secure as a successor to Mr. Ellis, the Reverend Joseph Young of the Baptist Mission, a very able and zealous worker, who, like his predecessor, gives his services to the Government gratuitously.

The results of the examinations were, on the whole, hardly up to those of the previous year, but in some of the schools many of the senior pupils had gone out into the world, leaving the upper standards in a somewhat skeleton condition.

The percentage of those receiving elementary education is 21·5 of the civil population of the island.

Imports and Exports.

The value of the imports was 27,382*l.*, a decline of 4,576*l.* as compared with 1890. The exports were of the value of 3,126*l.*, including 2,195*l* in specie. In addition to the imports and

exports, whale oil and bone to the value of 17,428*l.*, was transhipped by the American fleet in Jamestown Harbour.

It is not a little curious that whaling operations, in these seas, are conducted by vessels flying the American flag only.

It has been alleged that the British Mercantile Marine Acts are too stringent in their requirements to leave any margin of profit to the owner of a whaler, and that this accounts for the British flag not being represented; but, in view of the successful oiling fleets fitted out in Scotland, this can hardly be accepted as a satisfactory explanation.

I am disposed to attribute a great part of the cause of this apparent anomaly to the far simpler and more elastic and enterprizing mode of doing business adopted by Americans. An American schooner calls here twice a year, bringing such flour and other stores as the masters of the whalers have indicated they will probably require; and any surplus stores which the schooner may have are readily sold locally.

The whaling fleet meets this schooner here twice a year, and orders from the masters are given verbally to the master of the schooner, whose owners execute all requirements without the intervention of any middle man. The transaction is closed by an order on the owners in America in payment of the stores supplied; no bills of lading, invoices, or other technicalities being required. The schooner also supplies the cash, which she receives here for stores sold, to the whaling fleet in exchange for orders on America.

The remarkable increase in the quantity of sugar manufactured in America which was imported during the year must be specially mentioned as an interesting fact in connection with the recent fiscal alterations of the United States.

Shipping.

463 vessels communicated with the island, of which, 211 called, and 252 were boarded by licensed traders. These figures are 56 above those of the previous year.

The number of vessels which called was exactly the same as in 1890, so that the increase is entirely in the trade with passing ships.

Criminal Statistics.

107 cases were reported to the police, of which 80 resulted in summary conviction. Only two cases of larceny were tried in the Supreme Court, and both resulted in convictions.

The health of the gaol was most satisfactory throughout the year.

Meteorology.

The rainfall for the year was 29½ inches, half an inch below the average; but, although the rainfall was light, the number of

rainy days (231) was unusually large These statistics refer only to the country, as in Jamestown and the other valleys the rainfall is very small indeed.

Hospital.

The health of the island was good during the year, and the mortality (13·4 per 1,000) below the average, but the work entailed upon the hospital bears but a slight relation to the island's health, as it is in a great measure due to the needs of the mercantile marine of the world. Sailors of all nationalities, but chiefly Danish, are sent to our hospital by passing ships. The cases are frequently very bad ones, as a master does not call to land a seaman unless he deems it urgently necessary.

This work of humanity has been discharged by the island for very many years, and is, without doubt, a work of such urgent necessity that nothing should be allowed to interrupt it. The financial depression of the island, however, forces me to invite attention to this, as one of the strongest grounds upon which Imperial financial aid may be hoped for.

Savings Bank.

2,429*l.* was deposited, and 2,913*l.*, including interest, was withdrawn during the year; the total deposits falling from 10,393*l.* to 10,125*l.* The number of investors (112) was the same as the previous year, and the invested capital a trifle less.

The net profit upon the year's transactions, after paying all expenses, was 48*l.*, a very satisfactory amount in view of the very small return consols yield the Government.

As I have stated in previous reports, the savings bank return does not indicate general prosperity, but is due to the deposits of a few well-to-do persons.

Post Office.

The year's revenue was 83*l.* less (870*l.* to 787*l.*), and the expenditure was rather more than that in 1890, as there was, at the close of the year, a debt of 99*l.* due to the Cape Government for the carriage of mails which is not included in the year's accounts.

The maintenance of the 6*d.* rate per half ounce on letters from St. Helena to the United Kingdom and South Africa, and the still higher rates to other parts of the world, such as 1*s.* 2*d.* per half ounce to Mauritius, has been most unpopular, and weighs very heavily upon our poorer inhabitants. To the Cape Government we, at present, pay 1*s.* for each letter of half an ounce or less to Mauritius; but, now that the Cape has joined the Postal Union, it is hoped that more reasonable terms may be obtained.

ST. HELENA. 1891.

St. Helena largely fulfils the functions of an Imperial ocean post office, and receives and forwards at the cost of the Colony a number of unstamped letters from passing ships. These letters are taxed at 1*s.* per half ounce, that amount being collected on delivery and retained by the Imperial Post Office. This Post Office also, on behalf of the Imperial Government, lands, carts, stores, and re-ships all the outward mails for the Island of Ascension, free of charge; and it is hoped that these services may weigh with the Imperial Post Office in considering our earnest desire to introduce the popular postal rates which have now been extended to all other parts of the Empire.

Conclusion.

The great fall of rocks upon the 17th of April 1890 was commemorated during the year by the unveiling of a large canopied fountain in the centre of the main street in Jamestown. From the subscriptions raised by Mr. Antrobus at the time of the catastrophe, there remained a small surplus after satisfying the more pressing of the claims of the surviving sufferers. This surplus, which was partly composed of donations given for the express purpose of a memorial, would have been wholly inadequate to meet the requirements of the committee, had not the makers of the fountain supplied it at a nominal cost, and the shipping company brought it out free.

The fountain, which was opened on the 12th of September, is a great improvement to the main street of the town.

On the 16th of March, Captain McKechnie, R.N., of H.M.S. "Orontes," took 75 emigrants from the island to the Cape. This kind indulgence, conferred by the Admiralty, was of the greatest advantage to the island, and was thoroughly appreciated by those who were selected from among the many applicants. To Captain McKechnie's great courtesy and consideration, in dealing with the many little points and questions incidental to so novel an undertaking, it is due that no difficulty or friction whatever occurred, either during the embarcation or upon the voyage.

I cannot close my report without referring to some of the experiments conducted during the year by the Reverend J. H. Daine, the Roman Catholic Chaplain. The principal of these were the cultivation of an acre of cotton and the breeding and rearing of silkworms. The cotton has not yet been harvested, but I am not sanguine that a sufficient area of suitable land can be found in St. Helena to develop a paying industry.

It is Mr. Daine's opinion that many of the cottagers could carry on the cultivation of cotton upon land not suitable for other cultivation, and in supplement only of such other work as they may be able to secure from time to time, as at present.

As a very considerable number of islanders only obtain occasional work, his argument may perhaps hold good. It can in

any case be tried without any loss to the island; and for this and other spirited experiments which Mr. Daine is conducting, he deserves the profound gratitude of the community.

With regard to silk, I am somewhat more hopeful that a profitable industry might be established, if it be entirely supported by the labour of women and children. The results so far obtained have been very encouraging; but, until the many thousand mulberry trees which have been planted reach a leaf yielding age, it will not be possible to determine satisfactorily the result of the venture.

I transmit Mr. Daine's report upon the initial stage of the experiment, which is rapidly expanding. Too much weight may have been given to the fact that under the East India Company sericulture was abortive; but, while on the one hand it is not easy to dissociate the disastrous collapse of that experiment, which was conducted, as was every venture of that powerful company, in a most lavish style, from either grave incapacity or something even worse in the conduct of the managers, yet upon the other hand it is somewhat difficult to explain how it came about that a venture, upon which so much had been expended by the East India Company, should have failed to secure the support of some private individuals, if the concern, which could have been purchased in a going condition for a mere song, contained the germs of probable success.

It is, however, possible that the gigantic retrenchment which followed the transfer of the island to the Crown in 1834, the Imperial grant-in-aid falling from 99,000*l.* in that year to 18,000*l.* in 1837, in which year the sericulture establishment was broken up, and the highly-paid services of the curators were dispensed with, may—when added to the undoubtedly very great and general depression which followed Emancipation (1826) in this Island—have so far demoralized the community and shaken the credit of the island, as to render everyone unwilling even to look at a venture entailing any investment of capital in St. Helena.

It is difficult for us at this far-removed date to grasp, in any adequate measure, the prostration which resulted when the annual public expenditure of 100,000*l.* and upwards, drawn from the East India Company in money or stores, and which alone upheld the community, was withdrawn. This artificial condition had rendered it possible for the public servants to maintain so far a semblance of solvency. Nearly all of them engaged in farming and other private speculative ventures, which in too many instances terminated in serious embarrassments, from which the change rendered them hopeless of extricating themselves, and certainly rendered them incapable of entering upon any fresh undertaking.

The facts which I have here indicated were, without doubt, fairly well known to everyone in England who knew anything of the island, and this may sufficiently account for no serious attempt having apparently been made to carry on the silk establishments when it was abandoned by the Government.

ST. HELENA. 1891.

I could write very much upon the history of sericulture in St. Helena; for, although the accounts of its progress are spread over the unindexed record books of many years, they are, when brought to light, so full of minutiæ as to render a full, accurate, and perfect account of the whole matter capable of being drawn from them. I will, however, now content myself by giving a bird's-eye view of the period between January 1827 and December 1834. For although the undertaking was in an embryo state for about a year previous to January 1827 and in an expiring condition for nearly three years after 1834, yet the period I have selected comprises practically the life of the venture in connection with Government.

The total expenditure upon lands was about 10,000*l.* Of this sum, 900*l.* was paid for two properties at the Briars, which were subsequently sold together by Government for 400*l.*, and the remainder was expended upon mulberry land near Longwood. A further sum of not less than 10,000*l.* was expended upon buildings, machinery, and salaries, while the immediate annual saving by the abolition of the establishment was 841*l.*

The entire quantity of silk manufactured was 336¾ lbs., which sold in England for about 300*l.*

It is recorded that "the worms have always been healthy and "thrifty, and the climate is so perfectly congenial to them, that "immense numbers may be raised without fear of losing any "from disease."

How so lavish an expenditure could have produced so miserable a return I cannot say; but that incompetence and carelessness contributed to it in no small measure, I have no doubt.

The year 1891 has probably been the most gloomy and dispiriting during the century, and its financial and social aspect are alike so very depressing in every way that I hasten to conclude my review of it, while the belief in brighter days in store for the island in 1892 is strong upon me.

I have, &c.

(Signed) W. GREY WILSON.

Rev. J. H. DAINE to the GOVERNOR.

REPORT ON SERICULTURE.

Maldivia, St. Helena,
December 31, 1891.

SIR,

IN August 1891 I received from Bishop Leonard at the Cape my first essay in sericulture.

His Lordship sent me about $\frac{1}{12}$th of an ounce (value, 1*s.* 6*d.*; costs to St. Helena, 10*s.*) of eggs as an experiment, without reference to distinction of race, there being a few of all kinds of

Bombyx Mori, mulberry *annual silkworms*. These all hatched out in September, made cocoons, without *a single* death from disease, and had reproduced themselves in eggs by the 1st of November. Weight of green cocoons, 3 lbs. 2 ozs., value 12*s.* 6*d.*, 4*s.* 2*d.* per lb.; as waste cocoons 3*s.* 9*d.*, 1*s.* 3*d.* per lb.

Weight of seed reproduced 5 ounces, commercial value 10*s.* an ounce.

In October of 1891 I received from France 3 ounces of eggs, Adrianople white, a distinct race. These, unfortunately, had no guaranteed freedom from disease; an exceptionally wet season, leaves somewhat heated (fermented) through carriage from distant places, all conduced to disease. Overcrowding, want of space, and scarcity of food developed the hereditary germs of flacherie, for this seed came from a district once decimated in 1841.

The whole of this education was stamped out, frames burnt or disinfected, and the moths not permitted to reproduce.

In December eggs imported from a guaranteed source, hatched again from seed reproduced in the autumn of the same year.

The advance of sericulture since the Honourable East India Company's time and up to the discoveries of M. Pasteur, has greatly changed the system. The simple fact of the passage over the Equator of a parcel of eggs, kept on ice during three weeks' passage to St. Helena, constitutes a sufficient hibernation for the eggs; as far as Australia this must now be known, it really constitutes two crops of annual, *one* of St. Helena seed in August, a second in *September* or October from eggs imported from Europe, thus giving St. Helena *two* crops where all other seasons and countries, except India, have one crop and one season only.

The breeds of (eggs) silkworms are improved. The yield per ounce of cocoons by judicious breeding has doubled, 90 to 100 lbs. of cocoons being the usual yield per oz. of Swiss and Baghdat rearings; so that I am very much encouraged in my experiment for the year 1892.

I beg, &c.
(Signed) JOHN H. DAINE.

COLONIAL REPORTS.—ANNUAL.

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No. 99.

ST. HELENA.

ANNUAL REPORT FOR 1892.

(For Report for 1891, *see* Colonial Report [Annual] No. 63.)

Presented to both Houses of Parliament by Command of Her Majesty.
January 1894.

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ANNUAL.

No.	Colony.	Year.
59	Straits Settlements	1891
60	Ceylon	,,
61	Natal	1891–92
62	Basutoland	,,
63	St. Helena	1891
64	Sierra Leone	,,
65	Jamaica	1891–92
66	Trinidad and Tobago	1891
67	Newfoundland	,,
68	British New Guinea	1891–92
69	Victoria	1891
70	Rodrigues	,,
71	Bermuda	1892
72	Fiji	1891
73	British Honduras	,,
74	Turks and Caicos Islands	1892
75	Gibraltar	,,
76	Bahamas	,,
77	Leeward Islands	,,
78	Trinidad and Tobago	,,
79	Malta	,,
80	Gambia	,,
81	Straits Settlements	,,
82	Grenada	,,
83	Barbados	,,
84	St. Vincent	,,
85	Hong Kong	,,
86	St. Lucia	,,
87	Falkland Islands	,,
88	Gold Coast	,,
89	Basutoland	1892–93
90	Ceylon	1892
91	Zululand	,,
92	Mauritius	,,
93	Labuan	,,
94	British Honduras	,,
95	Lagos	,,
96	Sierra Leone	,,
97	Fiji	,,
98	Rodrigues	,,

MISCELLANEOUS.

No.	Colony.	Subject.
1	Gold Coast	Economic Agriculture.
2	Zululand	Forests.
3	Sierra Leone	Geology and Botany.

No. 99.

ST. HELENA.

[For Report for 1891, *see* Colonial Report (Annual) No. 63.]

Governor GREY WILSON to the MARQUESS OF RIPON.

The Castle, St. Helena,
July 17, 1893.

MY LORD,

I HAVE the honour to transmit the Blue Book of this Island for the year 1892.

The improvement in our general condition, to which I looked forward in closing my last report, was, I am glad to say, fully realised; and, although this improvement lacks many indications of genuine stability, it has afforded us a little respite from the harassing yet hopeless task of maintaining an equilibrium by endeavouring to devise means to reduce the expenditure to the level of the revenue.

These endeavours impose great hardships upon the Civil Servants, and are not conducive to efficiency:—

Revenue and Expenditure.

The revenue was 7,691*l.* (817*l.* more than in 1891, but yet 1,037*l.* less than in 1890), and the expenditure 7,445*l.* (843*l.* less than in 1891, and 1,587*l.* less than in 1890); so that there was a surplus at the close of the year of 246*l.*, which can only be regarded as nominal, in view of the amount by which our assets still fall short of our liabilities, an unsound condition that only commenced in 1890.

It is doubtless satisfactory to be able to realise a surplus, however small, but the financial year yields very little cause for genuine satisfaction when compared with previous years, for, with the exception of 1891, the most financially disastrous year the Colony has seen, 1892 takes the very lowest place.

The Customs revenue yielded the chief increase and rose from 3,704*l.* to 4,352*l.* The Post Office receipts rose from 786*l.* to 912*l.*, the highest point ever reached. But, upon the other hand, the revenue from Licences and Taxes fell heavily.

Mr. Antrobus, in his report upon the Blue Book for 1889, gave returns of the shipping, and of the receipts and expenditure for

the 24 previous years, and I have continued these returns (*see* Appendices 1 to 3) up to the end of 1892, and they show a somewhat less continuous decline than that to which Mr. Antrobus directed special attention.

Taxation.

No alteration took place either in the taxes or licences nevertheless the taxation rose nominally from 1*l.* 3*s.* to 1*l.* 5*s.* 7*d.* per head of the population. I say nominally, because the increased revenue from taxation meant only that the garrison, men-of-war, and calling ships, consumed more dutiable liquor and tobacco.

Proof of this is, I think, afforded by the fact that the revenue in 1892 was less than in 1891 from liquor, tea, coffee, boat and game licences, and also from the carriage, cart and horse tax, and water rate—in fact, from all sources save the duty on intoxicants and tobacco.

No taxes remained unpaid at the close of the year.

Local Bodies.

The want of interest taken in the local bodies exhibited the continued deplorable inertia of the inhabitants.

Public Debt.

The loan of 19,500*l.* raised by Sir Charles Elliot between 1868 and 1872, at 7 per cent. per annum, was finally extinguished in April by the payment of the last instalment due of 250*l.* There is, however, a debt of 5,158*l.* for a loan made by the Imperial Government in 1872 to this Colony, but I trust that Her Majesty's Government may, in view of the supreme efforts and sacrifices that the Colony and the Civil Servants have made to maintain a condition of solvency, release the Island from this heavy encumbrance.

Assets and Liabilities.

On the 31st of December the assets of the Colony were 13,629*l.*, and the liabilities 14,233*l.*, excluding the Imperial loan of 5,158*l.*

In 1890 our assets were 813*l.* in excess of our liabilities; in 1891 the liabilities exceeded the assets by 786*l.*; and in 1892, after absorbing the surplus of 246*l.* available on the year's account, our liabilities still exceeded our assets by 604*l.* and even this poor result was only achieved by the saving during the year of 253*l.*, the value of offices temporarily vacant.

Military.

The garrison was increased on the 23rd of March by the arrival of 68 officers and men of the Royal Artillery, bringing

their strength up to 86, and the total strength of the garrison up to 218, of which number 115 belonged to a company of the East Yorkshire Regiment, which, under the command of Major Garnett, replaced one of the York and Lancaster Regiment on July the 11th.

No progress was made locally with the formation of a Militia, and the subject is still engaging the attention of Her Majesty's Government, Lieutenant-Colonel Maclean, late Royal Artillery, being retained here by the Imperial Government to watch and report upon the progress of events.

Public Works.

1,096*l.* was expended upon public works, including the contribution in aid of the maintenance of the local telegraph and signal stations, and the entire cost of the time ball office, water supply, town roads, gardens, and repair of buildings.

Against this expenditure must be set the following revenue :—

	£
Sale of stores, trees, and engineer's work -	215
Sale of water, supplied to shipping - -	398
Water rate - - - - -	179
Rent of house property, model square, artisans' dwellings, &c. - - - - -	160
Rents from bonded store - - - -	62
	£1,014

In the foregoing reimbursements I have not included the rent of houses upon which nothing was spent, or the rents of lands upon which nothing, or upon which only fencing and cleaning, was done, which revenues appear under the heading of Rents; nor have I included any of the revenue from wharfage, which is brought to account under the heading of Customs, although the entire cost of maintaining the wharf and repairing and renewing the cranes falls under the Public Works expenditure.

During 1892 nearly 200*l.* was spent upon a new crane, and in removing rocks overhanging the wharf which endangered the traffic thereon.

Legislation.

Four Ordinances were passed during the year. Numbers 1 and 3 relate to the office of Coroner. The appointment of Coroner had been an elective one, but it is now vested in Her Majesty; and power is given to hold, with the Governor's consent, an inquisition without the aid of a jury.

Numbers 2 and 4 are Supply Ordinances.

Council.

Captain R. C. A. Howe, of the York and Lancaster Regiment, was superseded in March by Captain H. B. Gundry, Royal Artillery, who brought the detachment of Artillery out and was a member of Council from April 6th to the 2nd of August, when Major R. de Villamil, Royal Engineers, who landed on July 11th, was sworn in. Mr. Saul Solomon was absent from the Island during the whole of the year.

Civil Establishment.

The office of Harbour Master was vacant during the year pending the appointment of a retired Naval officer. Mr. James Boyd continued to perform the duties in conjunction with his other work.

Mr. J. Homagee was absent on leave from March 30th to July 11th. Mr. R. M. L. Pritchard (retired) acted for him as Supervisor of Customs. The Honourable T. E. Fowler and Colonel Allen Maclean, late Royal Artillery, acted as Police Magistrates, and Mr. H. S. Hands acted as Clerk of the Peace and Registrar of the Supreme Court.

Doctor F. E. Welby, the Colonial Surgeon, was absent from the Island from February 13th to May 16th. The coolie ship "Bann," bound to Demerara, lost her surgeon on the voyage, and I was compelled to send Doctor Welby on in charge of her.

Fortunately the Flagship was in harbour at the time and I obtained from her the services of Surgeon Bowden, R.N., to act as Colonial Surgeon, which, by the courtesy of the Admiralty, he continued to do until Doctor Welby returned.

George Ward, Governor's Messenger, resigned, and James Peters was appointed in his place.

Mr. G. Fuller, Assistant Master of the Country School, resigned, on appointment as Master of the Hussey Charity Country School.

The Honourable T. E. Fowler, who had been Coroner for 37 years, retired on pension, and Mr. Wm. A. Thorpe was appointed to the office, the remuneration of which is now by fees in lieu of a fixed salary.

Mr. R. G. Short was appointed Sheriff.

Pensions.

Mr. John Young, Collector of Customs, who was pensioned in 1852, died during the year at the age of 89, having drawn his pension for a few days over 40 years.

The annual amount for which the Colony was, on the 31st December, liable on account of pensions, was 1,758*l.*, or nearly a quarter of our entire revenue.

The ages of two of our pensioners who draw the largest pensions were, in 1892, 84 and 94 respectively.

Population.

The population may be estimated at 4,000.

Education.

The number of scholars on the rolls shows a slight decrease (from 837 to 829).

The Government schools are suffering from the want of assistant teachers, whom in our present financial straits it is not easy to provide.

The examinations yielded on the whole better results than in 1891.

Imports and Exports.

The value of the imports was 30,386*l.*, an improvement of 3,004*l.* over 1891; and the exports, including 6,721*l.* in specie, were of the value of 7,863*l.*

In addition to the foregoing imports and exports, whalebone and oil, to the value of 20,685*l.*, was transhipped to American vessels by the American whaling fleet in Jamestown Harbour.

The consumption of beer rose from 157 hogsheads in 1891 to 301 in 1892, and from 200 dozen bottles in 1891 to 273 in 1892, and wines and spirits show a corresponding increase, the total increase in the revenue under these heads being nearly 400*l.* A satisfactory rise took place in the revenue from water supplied to ships, tonnage dues, and wharfage.

Shipping.

562 vessels were sighted during the year, and of these 223 "called" and 189 traded with licensed boatmen. This number (412) is 51 less than in 1891, there being an increase of 12 in the number of vessels calling, *i.e.*, anchoring, and a decrease of 63 in the number of vessels trading without anchoring.

From January 1st, 1892, a record was kept of every sail sighted, and not, as previously, only of vessels communicating by signal, calling, *i.e.*, anchoring, or trading without calling. Had the record been kept upon the lines previously adopted, only 462 instead of 562 would appear as sighted (*see* Appendix 3).

Criminal Statistics.

136 cases were reported to the police, 107 persons were summarily convicted, 4 cases were dismissed, and 13 persons were discharged. Four persons were indicted in the Supreme Court. In three cases a verdict was given for the prisoner, and a charge of manslaughter fell through. The total cost of the gaol for the year was 139., and the daily average number in prison was 2·23. No deaths occurred.

Hospital.

The health of the Island during the year was very satisfactory, the number of deaths (56) being the same as in 1891, representing a death-rate of 13·4 per 1,000. The number of cases treated in the Hospital rose from 94 in 1891 to 137 in 1892; the number of deaths (7) being the same in each year; 44 of the patients treated in 1892 were sailors.

Meteorology.

The year was an important one for the Island. The Meteorological Council of the United Kingdom equipped a station at Hutts Gate, at an altitude of 1,900 feet, with the following instruments:—

One anemograph.
One barometer.
Six ordinary thermometers.
One maximum registering thermometer.
One minimum registering thermometer.
One 8-inch rain gauge.

The Council also provided the salary of the officer in charge. Observations were commenced in February, and have since been regularly recorded.

It is hoped that valuable results may be obtained from this station, which is under the care of Mr. H. S Hands, a zealous young Civil Servant who takes a keen interest in the work. The lowest temperature in the country recorded during the year was 48°, and the highest 78°. The lowest recorded in town was 66° and the highest 80°. 1892 was markedly cooler than 1891, when 86 degrees of heat were registered.

The rainfall at Longwood, to the eastward of the Island, was 24½ inches; at Hutts Gate, in the centre of the Island, 34¼ inches; and at Woodlands, in the western district, 29¾ inches. The greatest fall in the Island was 2·36 inches in 18 hours, which was recorded at the last station on 10th June. Thirty inches being taken as an average annual rainfall, the year must be recorded as a somewhat dry one, for previous to 1892 the rainfall was only taken in the eastern and western sides, and not at Hutts Gate, in the centre, which, from the year's records, appears to be the wettest locality.

The anemograph record, owing to mechanical difficulties which have been overcome, was not satisfactory during part of the year, but doubtless a more reliable record will be obtained in 1893.

The greatest force of wind recorded during the time the record was taken was 40 miles an hour in November, and the least 8 miles, with an average number of calm days of 7½ per cent.

Savings Bank.

2,465*l.* was deposited and 1,240*l.*, including interest, withdrawn. The total deposits rose from 10,125*l.* to 11,870*l.*, while the number of investors fell from 112 to 108. The net profit upon the year's transaction was only 14*l.*, as the Government was compelled to appropriate, for current expenses, a portion of the deposits which should have been invested to meet our liabilities to the depositors.

To meet these liabilities, amounting to 11,870*l.* on the 31st of December, we held stock and bonds to the nominal value of only 9,487*l.*, and of the market value of about 9,200*l.*

In connexion with the small number of depositors, it should be remembered that there is no other bank in the Colony, that there is no limit to the amount that may be deposited, and that all the Friendly Societies, who hold the bulk of the people's savings, use the bank.

Post Office.

The gross revenue from the Post Office was 912*l.*—the largest during the last 12 years, and the expenditure was 177*l.*

The increase in the revenue as compared with 1891 is 125*l.* and the large sum of 139*l.* received from stamp dealers throughout the world, has contributed largely to this satisfactory result.

11,790 letters were sent from here to the United Kingdom, and 5,616 to other places; and, though the number of letters received is not known, it may be estimated at 18,000. 837 parcels were received and 215 despatched. The money order business amounted to 4,530*l.*

At the close of 1892 a substantial reduction was made in the postal rate of letters to the eastward of the Cape. One shilling and twopence per half ounce had been charged, and of that sum 1*s.* was paid to the Cape Government. The reduced rate is 7½*d.* per half ounce to all places other than the United Kingdom.

I do not expect that 1893 will show such a satisfactory postal revenue as 1892. I am, however, not without hope that, if Her Majesty's Government will continue to pay the Colony the postage upon official letters upon the present scale, it may be possible in 1894 to reduce other postage from 6*d.* to 2½*d.* the half ounce.

Cotton-growing and Sericulture.

The experiments in the cultivation of cotton and in sericulture, conducted by the Rev. J. H. Daine, yielded no decisively satisfactory results during the year, but they are, upon the whole, not discouraging.

Although it is open to question whether Mr. Daine, with the limited means at his disposal, is not conducting experiments somewhat too varied and extensive, yet his enterprise in a country so devoid of it as this cannot but be commended, and I hope that he may be able to instil into the people of this Island some of his versatile energy.

ST. HELENA. 1892.

It will be seen from Mr. Daine's reports, which I transmit herewith, that, pending the development of the mulberry cuttings, experiments have been tried with the castor oil silkworm. It was, however, found that the castor oil plant of St. Helena is not the Ricinus Communis, and, seeds of that plant having been imported, further experiments will be conducted by Mr. Daine.

A very misleading printer's error occurred in my last year's report upon the Blue Book. The total expenditure upon lands in connection with sericulture was 10,000*l.*; and of this sum 9,000*l.* (and not 900*l.* as printed) was paid for two properties at the Briars, which were subsequently sold together by Government for 400*l.*

Shells.

During the years 1884-6 Capt. W. H. Turton, R.E., who was then stationed in St. Helena, made a very extensive and valuable collection of shells, which he subsequently presented to the British Museum.

Mr. Edgar A. Smith, of the Natural History Section, has now reported upon the collection and on the marine molluscan fauna of this Island,* and in doing so says, "The greatest praise is due to "Capt. Turton for the excellent manner in which the collection "was made and put up for transmission to this country, and the "amount of time and labour bestowed upon it must have been "very considerable."

Mr. Melliss, in his work on St. Helena, enumerates only 41 marine species; but, thanks to Capt. Turton's energy, no less than 138 additional named species are now added to the list, yet this, as Mr. Smith says, does not at all approximate the total of the species which really exist around St. Helena.

The marine molluscan fauna of St. Helena appears most to resemble that of the West Indies; for of the known species in Capt. Turton's collection just 50 per cent. are common to the two localities. About 25 species or 30 per cent. are identical with Mediterranean forms, and about six occur in all three localities.

A report upon the land shells of St. Helena, also based chiefly upon collections made by Capt. Turton, has likewise been published by Mr. Smith.† In it nearly all the known species, both living and extinct, are figured.

General.

In February the Bishop of St. Helena paid a visit to Tristan d'Acunha, distant 1,500 miles. His Lordship reports that the social and moral condition of the few inhabitants was of a very satisfactory nature.

The population was still somewhat upon the decrease, owing to emigration, and now numbers little over 50.

* Proceedings of the Zoological Society of London, 1890, pp. 247–317, plates XXI.–XXIV. Annals and Magazine of Natural History, 1892, Vol. X., pp. 129–135, plate XII.

† Op. Cit., 1892, pp. 258–270, plates XXI.–XXII.

During the year the Government of Brazil intimated to this Government that they did not intend to continue to maintain a consular representative in St. Helena, and that consulate was accordingly abolished.

The Colonial Government has for several years fostered the cultivation of potatoes by the annual importation of seed potatoes, which are most generously brought to the Island freight free by the Union Steamship Company. There is no doubt whatever that the small grower has been enormously benefited by these importations, and from my personal experience I can state that the Island potatoes have greatly improved. I hope shortly to transmit to your Lordship a report* upon this matter from a practical farmer.

I must, with regret, record the lamentable fact that, with a decreasing population, it became necessary to make a considerable increase in the accommodation of the Lunatic Asylum. The additional rooms are in every way satisfactory and suitable, and I trust will more than suffice for any calls that may be made on them in future years.

I have, &c.
(Signed) W. GREY WILSON,
Governor.

REPORT ON SERICULTURE, 1892.

St. Helena,
July 16, 1893.

SIR,

I HAVE the honour to present the following facts on sericulture, extracted from my diary, together with samples of silk for the year 1892.

In October of 1892, eggs hatched with greater simultaneity than the education of April to May of the same year, which permitted the feeder more leisure than in the preceding occasions, as the worms fed and were dormant, with little exception, for the usual term.

There was a total exemption from pebrine, and the failures were too trifling to record; a few died from eating leaves rather too succulent, which might be termed mild flacherie.

As the educations for 1892 were merely for observation, and reproduction of seed, together with the collection of samples, no commercial statistics can be rendered, as the necessary food, mulberry leaves, is not yet in sufficient quantity to re-commence the cocoonery.

The report on the samples of reeled silk and cocoons sent by me to the Kimberley Exhibition, grown at Maldivia, St. Helena, has not reached me.

The specimens of silk enclosed were reeled by Mr. Wardle, President of the Silk Association of Great Britain and Ireland, Author of "Wild Silks of India," and other sericultural works,

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* *See* page 14.

ST. HELENA. 1892.

who is good enough to interest himself, and has rendered me great help in my effort to establish a silk industry in St. Helena.

This gentleman is of opinion that, when there is sufficient food in proximity to the cocooneries, silk in St. Helena will be made in commercially paying quantities.

The end of the years '93 and '94 will decide the problem of silk in St. Helena, as quite a quantity of mulberry cuttings are now rooted, not by any means sufficient, but such a quantity as would justify (if the next educations are manipulated cheaply and healthily) a speculator to take up lands and plant mulberry trees.

Pending the growth of mulberry trees, I have been much struck with the possibility of the acclimatization of the Castor-oil silkworm, the Attacus ricini, or Eria silkworm.

I have received from Mr. Nitya Mukerji, Special Sericulturist to the Government of India, a few specimens of Eria cocoons; these arrived desiccated, and quite dead. I applied to many sources for this species of silkworm, but failed on several different occasions. I heard, also, that the authorities at the Royal Gardens, Kew, had some for me, but they did not reach St. Helena.

I had given up hope of being able to import these chrysalides alive, when quite unexpectedly the Chamber of Commerce of Silk, Lyons, France, who are also benevolently interested in the establishment of this industry in St. Helena, sent me a second package of cocoons, which happily emerged in a few days after their arrival.

The moths were very vigorous and beautiful. In a few days I had some 20,000 eggs and anticipated a large return of cocoons; to my astonishment I found that the newly-hatched worms would not feed upon the St. Helena castor-oil plant, and as the presumed Ailanthus at Plantation (a leaf the Eria will also feed upon), was not in foliage, I had with grief to watch my treasured Eria die by the thousands. On investigation it turns out that our supposed castor-oil of St. Helena is the Curcas purgans, and if there ever were castor-oil plants in the Island they have hybridized with the former. I have been promised a few more Eria cocoons and have received a dozen castor-oil seeds which have germinated, and show that the soil of St. Helena is suitable to them. Your Excellency has also promised me a supply of seed, and His Lordship the Bishop of Charadon, the Roman Catholic Bishop in Cape Town, has kindly sent 5*l.* to His Grace the Archbishop of Bombay to be expended in Eria cocoons and the cost of transit to St. Helena.

The Eria silkworm makes seven crops per annum, the castor-oil is perennial in this Island, and from the few plants, and cocoons already received I feel almost confident that if the mulberry silk should turn out indifferently, the Eria or castor-oil will be a success, instead of waiting three to four years for food for the Bombyx Mori, or mulberry silkworm. In three months tons of Ricinus communis castor-oil can be raised, the food of the Attacus ricini, Eria, or castor-oil, silkworm. I shall have the honour in due course to inform you of the results of my observations and investigations.

I beg, &c.

(Signed) JOHN H. DAINE.

REPORT ON COTTON, 1892.

SIR,

I HAVE the pleasure to inform you that the cotton planted in the Briars field, kindly lent to me for experiment by the Honourable George Moss, member of your Excellency's Council, has turned out better than expected.

One pound of cotton in the boll has yielded 11 ounces of seed and five of lint.

A tree averages, in full growth, one pound of cotton; an acre should carry 2,000 plants, which would give a bale of cotton of, more or less, 600 pounds of lint, and about 1,350, more or less, pounds of cotton seed, which in its raw state is worth more than cotton-cake as a feeding stuff. It can be fed, as Indian corn is, to oxen and cows.

These figures would assure the cultivator at least 10*l.* per acre per annum; for the seed will pay for ginning, carriage, and the etceteras of shipping. This would be a great help to the small agricultural landholders in the Island.

I would advocate other varieties of cotton than that which I have planted at the Briars, which is Gossypium herbaceum, the United States species ripening much more rapidly and admitting a greater number of trees to the acre. They are of a more dwarf nature, and, from specimens I have cultivated in other parts of the Island, are even heavier croppers than the St. Helena variety, and the staple of lint was valued by the Liverpool Cotton Brokers' Association at higher figures than the Gossypium herbaceum of the Briars field.

I may add that the Briars field has not received the cultivation due to the cotton plant, and has been ploughed but once, and hoed once only; one half of the plants encountered a severe drought, from which they have not yet fully recovered, whereas the other half bid fair to become forest trees.

This little auxiliary industry would find employment for a gin, conjointly with a small fibre machine such as is used in Guatemala and Yucatan and other Central States of America; such a fibre machine I have imported, and when I have obtained a horse-wind, or oil-engine motor, I hope to be able to give an interesting report upon an experiment to utilize the fibrous plants of St. Helena.

I have, &c.

(Signed) JOHN H. DAINE.

W. Grey Wilson, Esq., C.M.G.,
Governor of St. Helena,
&c. &c. &c.

ST. HELENA.
1892.

REPORT ON SEED POTATOES.

Governor GREY WILSON to the MARQUESS OF RIPON.

The Castle, Saint Helena,
MY LORD, September 4, 1893.

I HAVE the honour to transmit a Report from Mr. H. B. Morrice, one of the leading gentlemen farmers of this island, upon the results of the importation by the Government of seed potatoes.

2. Mr. Morrice, it will be seen, is of opinion that nothing but good has resulted from the experiment which, with Lord Knutsford's consent, I originated in 1889 ; and as these importations* have cost the Government nothing, I trust your Lordship will sanction the continuance of annual importations.

3. I am not able to concur in Mr. Morrice's view that the small growers do not as a rule purchase the seed direct from Government, as, out of 19 purchasers in 1893, 14 were undoubtedly growers in a small way.

4. I venture to suggest that this report would enhance the value of, and interest in, my report on the Blue Book for 1892 if printed with it.

I have, &c.
(Signed) W. GREY WILSON,
Governor.

Enclosure.

H. B. MORRICE, Esq., to the GOVERNOR.

St. Helena,
SIR, September 2, 1893.

AT your request I have gathered information as to the *effect upon the island potato crops of the seed imported by* the Government, and have the honour to report to your Excellency as follows:—

The purchasers of the seed are unanimously of opinion that it must be beneficial to have fresh seed imported from England, but owing to the fact that twice out of the three times that the Government has imported it the seasons have been exceptionally bad, only a few are able to say positively that they have had better crops. One grower says that from 100 lbs. of seed he

* Three importations:—February 1889, February 1892, and January 1893.

planted last February he got 7 cwt. and but for the rot he computes he would have had 10 cwt., whilst from his old seed he never got more than four or five fold. Another planter states that he considers he gets fully fourteen fold from Government seed, of a better quality of potato, and that he has only been successful with potatoes since he bought that seed. On the other hand, several purchasers report a total loss of crops.

In answer to your question "can it be said that the small "grower has benefited?" I can only say that though few have done so directly, many, I think, have indirectly.

The price of the first two lots of seed imported put them quite out of reach of the poor man, but as he buys his seed from the larger growers he probably benefited in the end. Now that, owing to the generosity of the Union Company in bringing the potatoes out freight free, the price has come down, the small growers will probably buy direct from the Government; but whether they do so or not there is no doubt that the importation of seed is a universal benefit to all potato growers, because if the small grower buys seed from the larger grower the more often the latter is able to renew his seed the better for the former.

The opposition on the part of many business men in Jamestown to this encouragement given by the Government to a branch of agriculture which brings some hundreds of pounds yearly into the Island is, to me, inexplicable, seeing that probably the whole of this money eventually finds its way into their shops. If the cultivation of potatoes interfered with the sale of rice one could understand it, but it is not so; St. Helenians are not a potato-eating race, and, with the exception of what is sold to the garrison, nearly the whole of the crop is sold to shipping, or is exported, so that it brings in money which would otherwise be totally lost to the island.

I have, &c.
(Signed) H. B. MORRICE.

APPENDIX 1.

SHIPPING, 1866–92.*

Year.	Merchant Sailing Vessels.		Ships of War and Mail Steamers.	Total.	Difference from previous Year.		—
	British.	Foreign.			Decrease.	Increase.	
1866	529	322	67	918	—	68	
1867	503	309	66	878	40	—	
1868	501	318	72	891	—	13	
1869	456	319	78	853	38	—	Suez Canal opened.
1870	416	322	69	807	46	—	
1871	380	308	70	758	49	—	
1872	319	285	63	667	91	—	
1873	370	291	56	717	—	50	
1874	380	247	57	684	33	—	
1875	298	242	65	605	79	—	Average Annual Decrease 1870–81, 27½
1876	306	222	54	582	23	—	
1877	335	266	63	664	—	82	
1878	362	251	56	669	—	5	
1879	310	228	65	603	66	—	
1880	306	191	67	564	39	—	
1881	245	215	65	525	39	—	
1882	233	203	61	497	28	—	Tonnage Dues abolished.
1883	250	213	58	521	—	24	
1884	188	160	66	414	107	—	Average Annual Decrease 1883–5, 15½
1885	225	160	65	450	—	36	
1886	166	153	58	377	73	—	1884–6, 48 Passing Ships Ordinance enacted.
1887	150	111	56	317	60	—	
1888	142	122	64	330	—	13	Average Annual Decrease 1887–9 29½
1889	134	110	44	288	42	—	
1890	90	83	38	211	77	—	
1891	89	76	46	211	—	—	Average Annual Decrease 1890–2, 21½
1892	85	99	39	223	—	12	
					852	222	
Net decrease since 1869					630		Average Annual Decrease 1870–92, 27⅜

* This return includes only ships which "called."

APPENDIX 2.

RECEIPTS and EXPENDITURE, 1866-92.

Year.	Revenue.		Total Revenue exclusive of Grants and Loans.	Total Expenditure including repayment of Debt.	Surplus.	Deficit.	Grants and Loans from Parliament.	Loans bearing interest.
	Customs.	Other Sources.						
	£	£	£	£	£	£	£	£
1866	17,257	5,895	23,152	26,110	—	2,958	—	5,000
1867	17,159	5,867	23,026	27,113	—	4,087	—	—
1868	13,402	5,304	18,706	26,203	—	7,497	3,000	5,000
1869	15,076	5,704	20,780	24,626	—	3,846	—	5,000
1870	11,094	4,880	15,974	18,943	—	2,969	—	1,250
1871	10,621	4,937	15,558	18,439	—	2,881	950	—
1872	10,121	3,807	13,928	27,376	—	13,448	4,208	8,250
1873	11,138	3,842	14,980	16,699	—	1,719	—	—
1874	10,003	3,979	13,982	14,522	—	540	—	—
1875	10,041	3,575	13,616	14,040	—	424	—	—
1876	9,555	3,612	13,167	13,329	—	162	—	—
1877	9,808	2,973	12,781	18,607	—	5,226	5,500	—
1878	10,517	3,681	14,198	12,815	1,383	—	—	—
1879	10,470	3,685	14,155	12,486	1,669	—	—	—
1880	8,547	3,403	11,950	11,870	80	—	—	—
1881	9,198	3,228	12,426	12,801	—	375	—	—
1882	8,253	3,247	11,500	11,212	288	—	Grants for Mail Service.	—
1883	7,091	3,175	10,266	11,145	—	879		
1884	6,611	3,360	9,971	10,807	—	836	450	—
1885	6,017	3,032	9,049	*13,099	—	4,050	2,050	—
1886	6,580	3,606	10,186	*11,210	—	1,024	1,914	—
1887	4,590	3,454	8,044	*11,382	—	3,338	3,000	—
1888	5,841	3,425	9,266	*10,448	—	1,182	2,275	—
1889	4,891	3,518	8,409	*8,979	—	570	100	—
1890	5,656	3,073	8,729	9,032	—	303	—	—
1891	3,704	3,170	6,874	8,288	—	1,414	—	—
1892	4,352	3,339	7,691	7,445	246	—	—	—
							Total grant in aid for Mail Service - - -	£9,789 —
							* Including payments for Mail Service amounting in the five years to -	£9,848 —

APPENDIX 3.

Year.	Ships* Signalled.	Passed without trading.	Traded with Boatmen.	Called.	Called and traded with Boatmen.
1886 - -	686	290	90	377	396
1887 - -	619	193	109	317	427
1888 - -	641	145	166	330	496
1889 - -	604	55	261	288	549
1890 - -	480	73	196	211	407
1891 - -	502	39	252	211	463
1892 - -	462	50	189	223	412

* In 1892 a record was kept of every ship sighted, and 100 were sighted in addition to the 462 which were signalled.

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For Her Majesty's Stationery Office.

No. 125.

ST. HELENA.

ANNUAL REPORT FOR 1893.

(For Report for 1892, *see* Colonial Report [Annual] No. 99.)

Presented to both Houses of Parliament by Command of Her Majesty.

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COLONIAL REPORTS.

The following, among other, Reports relating to Her Majesty's Colonial Possessions have been issued, and may be obtained for a few pence from the sources indicated on the title page :—

ANNUAL.

No.	Colony.	Year.
90	Ceylon	1892
91	Zululand	"
92	Mauritius	"
93	Labuan	"
94	British Honduras	"
95	Lagos	"
96	Sierra Leone	"
97	Fiji	"
98	Rodrigues	"
99	St. Helena	"
100	British Bechuanaland	"
101	British Guiana	1892–93
102	Newfoundland	"
103	Jamaica	1892
104	Victoria	1892–93
105	Bermuda	1892
106	Gambia	1893
107	Hong Kong	"
108	St. Vincent	"
109	Gibraltar	"
110	Bahamas	"
111	Turks and Caicos Islands	"
112	Leeward Islands	"
113	Barbados	"
114	Malta	"
115	Zululand	"
116	British Honduras	"
117	Trinidad and Tobago	"
118	Falkland Islands	"
119	Rodrigues	"
120	Mauritius	"
121	Straits Settlements	"
122	Labuan	1893
123	Basutoland	"
124	St. Lucia	"

MISCELLANEOUS.

No.	Colony.	Subject.
1	Gold Coast	Economic Agriculture.
2	Zululand	Forests.
3	Sierra Leone	Geology and Botany.

No. 125.

ST. HELENA.

[For Report for 1892, *see* Colonial Report (Annual) No. 99.]

Governor Grey Wilson to the Marquess of Ripon.

The Castle, St. Helena,
September 20, 1894.

My Lord,

I have the honour to transmit the Blue Book of this Island for the year 1893.

2. It is with feelings of no little pleasure that I invite your Lordship's attention to the very substantial financial improvement of the year, an improvement which, even if (as there is much reason to fear) it is only evanescent, yet, following upon the very much smaller one of 1892, is not without encouragement, and has given me substantial relief from the more pressing anxieties and perplexities which have continuously diminished the efforts that should have been directed to the solution of many pressing social and economic questions. It is a hopeful feature of the present time that there are men of position who are eager to discover means to help the Island by the introduction of some sound industry. I have always strongly discouraged the belief that the Government would originate and finance any undertaking with that object; but at the same time I have endeavoured to stimulate enterprize with the assurance that I would do everything in my power to secure the co-operation of the Government in any well digested scheme adequately supported by a fair proportion of the inhabitants.

Revenue and Expenditure.

3. The Revenue was 8,546*l.* (855*l.* more than in 1892, and 102*l.* less than the average of the past five years) and the expenditure 7,637*l.* (1,201*l.* less than the average of the last five years). After providing for the expenditure of the year, there remained, therefore, the substantial surplus of 909*l.*, which has more than extinguished the deficits of previous years.

I 84640. Wt. 20548.

ST. HELENA. 1893.

4. To elucidate the cause of this improvement is by no means easy. It is universally contended that trade has not improved; the number of ships calling has continued to decline; no industry has been started; and the visits paid by men of war have been few and of short duration. The Supervisor of Customs accounts for the improvement in the revenue from Customs (the only appreciable one) by greatly increased importations from America, due to the competition of rival schooners bringing produce on speculation, and to the over importation of British goods by local merchants. Both these causes will, in his opinion, seriously affect the Customs revenue in 1894, the market being glutted in respect of several staple imports; but, as will be seen under the head of Imports and Exports, a very great part of the increased Customs revenue is derived from spirits and wines, and, as these are only cleared from bond as required, the importations of 1893 cannot affect the revenue of 1894 under those heads.

5. I confess that I could wish to offer to your Lordship some explanation more satisfying to my mind than is that of the Supervisor of Customs, which, while doubless accounting in a measure for the result, leaves the main cause of the increase involved in great obscurity. I cannot avoid reaching the conclusion that there has been a real improvement in the condition of the masses, resulting from the emigration of the last few years, which was unusually heavy in 1893. The result of this has been the hardening of wages and the transference, at least for the time being, of a considerable number of persons from the non-wage earning, and consequently non-revenue-producing, class, to that of contributors to the revenue by means of the remittances made by absentees to their families on the Island.

6. The bulk of the revenue is derived from "Customs," which includes not only the specific and only genuine Customs duties upon wine, spirits, and tobacco, but also the receipts from the sale of water and from a wharfage charge upon all goods for the use of the Government crane and wharf.

7. The increase in the Customs was nearly 700*l.* (4,352*l.* to 5,046*l.*), and to this must be added an increase of 60*l.* under Licences and Taxes and a substantial increase of 50*l.* on the then highest recorded Post Office revenue of 1892 (912*l.* to 962*l.*)

Taxation.

8. No fiscal alterations having taken place, the taxation per head of population, inclusive of Poor and other rates, rose from 1*l.* 3*s.* 0*d.* in 1891 to 1*l.* 5*s.* 7*d.* in 1892, and 1*l.* 10*s.* 0*d.* in 1893. The nominal rise of 1892 was due to the increase of the garrison in that year, and to the presence of a greater number of war vessels; but neithet of these causes will suffice to account for the rise in

1893, and I think it must, in conjunction with the improved revenue from licences, be taken to indicate in a measure greater prosperity.

Local Bodies.

9. As the ratepayers did not exercise their power of electing a Health Board, I appointed instead, as I am empowered to do, a Sanitary Inspector to carry out all the duties, and exercise all the powers, of such Board.

Debt.

10. The loan of 5,158*l.*, granted by the Imperial Parliament to the Island in 1872, remains unchanged.

Assets and Liabilities.

11. Excluding that debt, the assets of the Colony at the close of the year were 11,600*l.*, and the liabilities, 11,268*l.*, showing a favourable balance of 332*l.*, in place of the deficit of 604*l.* at the end of 1892.

Military.

12. The garrison consisted of 197 officers and men, as against 210 in the previous year.

Legislation.

13. Four Ordinances were passed during the year. Numbers 2 and 4 are Supply Ordinances. Number 1, "An Ordinance to Simplify Conveyancing and Titles to Land," affords simple, inexpensive, and easily understood. procedure for the sale, purchase, and mortgage of real estate, the obtaining of sound titles in substitution for valueless or lost ones, and the registration of the very short deeds prescribed. No. 3, "An Ordinance to provide greater Security against fire," provides for the payment, by a rate, of any loss or damage sustained by the Imperial Government or Troops in combating a fire. As the Colony does not possess a fire engine, the arrangement is a very satisfactory one for the inhabitants, who obtain the services of the Imperial Troops, engines, and appliances, for a purely nominal payment.

Civil Establishment.

14. The office of Harbour Master, which had been vacant during 1892, was filled by the appointment of Commander W. Hewetson, R.N. (who landed on the 15th April) who is also Naval Agent

for the Admiralty and Treasurer of the Island. Miss Rose Aimée Blennerhassett was appointed as Lady Nurse Superintendent of the Colonial Hospital, and arrived in the Colony on the 19th December.

Population.

15. The population at the close of the year was 3,814, approximately, a decrease of about 300.

Education.

16. There are nine elementary schools, four of which give free education, while five charge a fee of one penny a week. The four free education schools, with four teachers, have only 194 scholars upon the rolls; while the five schools charging a fee of one penny a week, with seven teachers, have 463 scholars upon the rolls, or a total of 657 day scholars. In previous years, the rolls of the night schools, Sunday schools, and the Military adult school, have been counted in the general total; and, if this be done, there is a slight increase as compared with 1892 (829 to 838).

17. Three fee-paying and one free school are maintained by the Government; three free schools are supported from the proceeds of a fund provided by the late Miss Rebecca Hussey; and only two schools, belonging to the Benevolent Society, are in any way assisted by local contributors. The total amount of the subscriptions to these two last in 1893 was only 15*l.* 4*s.* 0*d.* Fortunately, they possess invested funds and property, the result of byegone liberality, to the value of 1,945*l.*; but their maintenance is a matter of serious anxiety to the committee of management. I trust it may not become necessary to close either of these schools, as the committee fear.

Imports and Exports.

18. The value of the Imports was 39,193*l.*, nearly 9,000*l.* more than in the previous year, and larger than in any year since 1886; but in this total is included 2,000*l.* in specie imported by the Imperial Government. The imports would seem to justify the expectation of an even greater increase in the customs revenue than took place.

19. The value of the exports, including 4,055*l.* in specie, was 4,976*l.* In addition to this, whalebone and oil to the value of 32,256*l.* were transhipped in the harbour.

20. The importation of beer showed an extraordinary increase. The figures are:—

—	In Hogsheads.	Dozen Quart Bottles.
1891 - - -	164	212
1892 - - -	301	273
1893 - - -	366	1,603

Duty-paid wine and spirits show an almost equally surprising increase. The figures are:—

—	Gallons, Spirits.	Gallons, Wine.
1891 - - -	1,489	6,088
1892 - - -	1,688	6,887
1893 - - -	2,068	7,318

Shipping.

21. Five hundred and sixteen vessels were sighted during the year, of which 199 (including 11 British and three foreign men-of-war) called, and 193 traded with licensed boatmen.

The number of vessels calling and trading (392) was 20 less than in 1892: the number of calling vessels declined 24, and the number of vessels trading rose 4.

Hospital.

22. The health of the Island was not so satisfactory as during the last few years. The number of deaths was 72, as compared with 56 in 1892, equal to 18 per 1,000; or, excluding soldiers and invalid sailors landed for treatment, 16·2 per 1,000.

There was a very unusual number of deaths of persons under the age of ten (31 in 1893, and only eight in 1892). This very great increase was due to teething, croup, and diphtheria, and apart from these cases the health of the Island was remarkably good.

The total number of cases treated in the Hospital was 135, and the daily average 6·59; 37 of the patients treated during the year were sailors.

METEOROLOGY.

Rainfall.

23. The year 1893, in comparison with the previous year, may be regarded as a fairly wet one.

A comparison of the registers kept at St. Matthew's Vicarage (central), Longwood (east), and Woodlands (west), shows that the greatest amount of rain fell at the first station.

The record stands as follow:—

St. Matthew's Vicarage, 1,900 feet above the sea, 40·344 inches.

Longwood, 1,780 feet above the sea, 28·07 inches.

Woodlands, 2,050 feet above the sea, 31·77 inches.

It is singular to note that, although the first two stations are situated only a mile distant from each other, 12¼ inches of rain were recorded at the former in excess of the latter station.

The greatest daily record was 2·38 inches at Woodlands on the 27th of April, and then the true rainfall was not registered, as the bottle, which was not, unfortunately, enclosed in the usual can, ran over.

Barometer.

24. The barometric pressure shows a minimum in the beginning of January, and a maximum towards the middle of July, and between those periods the instrument remained almost quiescent.

Temperature.

25. The temperature in the country ranged from 56·2° in September to 64·6° in March, and in the town from 69° to 77° during the same period, showing, on the average, a difference of only 8° between the hottest and coldest months.

The absolute maximum temperature recorded was 87° in May at Woodlands, and the absolute minimum 49° in the months of August and September at the same station.

Wind.

26. The two most windy months in the year were August and September, during which the greatest daily force of 40 miles an hour, corresponding to a pressure of 8·0 lbs. on the square foot, was registered. The force of 8 miles an hour, or a pressure of 5 ounces on the square foot was the least recorded, the average number of calm days being 1·4 per cent.

Post Office.

27. The gross revenue from the Post Office was 962*l.*, the largest ever recorded. The amount received from non-resident stamp dealers fell from 199*l.* to 163*l.*

13,434 letters were sent from here to the United Kingdom, and 7,026 to other places.

975 parcels were received and 233 despatched, an increase of nearly 20 per cent.

The Money Order business amounted to 4,080*l.*

Conclusion.

28. At the close of the year, Mr. R. A. Sterndale called attention in England to the assistance which might be afforded to the Island by the development of the fisheries and the encouragement of bee-keeping, and I trust that this year some substantial progress may be made with one or both of these industries. Nothing, however, should be attempted until the subject has been thoroughly and exhaustively digested, and the necessary capital is available. Failure would supply the pessimists with further ground for maintaining that relief is impossible, and that their apathy and hopelessness are the effect, and in no measure the cause, of the many failures that darken our past.

I have, &c.

(Signed) W. GREY WILSON,
Governor.

COLONIAL REPORTS.—ANNUAL.

No. 154.

ST. HELENA.

ANNUAL REPORT FOR 1894.

(For Report for 1893, *see* Colonial Report [Annual] No. 125.)

Presented to both Houses of Parliament by Command of Her Majesty.
February 1896.

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ANNUAL.

No.	Colony.	Year.
119	Rodrigues	1893
120	Mauritius	"
121	Straits Settlements	"
122	Labuan	"
123	Basutoland	1893–94
124	St. Lucia	1893
125	St. Helena	"
126	Ceylon	"
127	Fiji	"
128	Grenada	"
129	Sierra Leone	"
130	British Bechuanaland	1893–94
131	British New Guinea	1892–3 & 1893–4.
132	Lagos	1893
133	British Guiana	1893–4
134	Jamaica	"
135	Newfoundland	1893
136	Gold Coast	"
137	Zululand	1894
138	Bermuda	"
139	Bahamas	"
140	Barbados	"
141	Turks and Caicos Islands	"
142	Malta	"
143	Gambia	"
144	Windward Islands	"
145	Trinidad and Tobago	"
146	Gibraltar	"
147	Falkland Islands	"
148	Hong Kong	"
149	Straits Settlements	1894
150	Lagos	"
151	Seychelles	"
152	Basutoland	1894–5
153	Fiji	1894

MISCELLANEOUS.

No.	Colony.	Subject.
1	Gold Coast	Economic Agriculture.
2	Zululand	Forests.
3	Sierra Leone	Geology and Botany.
4	Canada	Emigration.

No. 154.

ST. HELENA.

[For Report for 1893 *see* Colonial Report (Annual) No. 125.]

Governor GREY WILSON to Mr. CHAMBERLAIN.

The Castle, St. Helena,
August 13, 1895.

SIR,

THE 1894 Blue Book of this little Colony of 4,000 souls, which I herewith transmit, exhibits such hopeful indications as to relieve me from the charge of over-confidence if I express the opinion that the low-water mark of the Island has been passed.

The decline of the prosperity of the Island was coincident with the opening of the Suez Canal in 1869, and to that event nearly all our misfortunes have been attributed. That steam largely replaced sails, and that the canal diverted a large proportion of the Eastern traffic from this route, cannot be denied. A closer investigation of the history of modern merchant shipping, however, reveals the fact that, at the same time, increased competition so greatly reduced the profits of owners as to render necessary the utmost vigilance in curtailing expenditure.

Small ships, being much more costly in *personnel* than large ones, gave place to vessels of ever-increasing size. Preserved provisions improved in quality and were shipped in larger quantities at the cheaper European ports of departure. Water storage was extended and improved, and the two or three days' holiday which nearly every captain coming from the eastward took in St. Helena was, in the hurry and rush, crushed out of the voyage altogether, or reduced to a stay of as many hours. Vessels are now in every way better found than formerly, and the ship chandler's bill that in the good old times raised no comment would in these days have serious consequences for the captain. The opening of the Suez Canal looms large and clear, but these facts must not be lost sight of.

The garrison of the Island consisted in 1869 of 448 men, and in 1870 it was reduced to 178; and this fact, I confidently assert, was the direct and immediate cause of our misfortunes.

The chequered history of this Island, from its zenith in Napoleonic times to its very severe depression of modern times, is not that of a natural rise and fall, but should rather be regarded as the inevitable relapse from fictitious inflation.

It is true that since the days when the East India Company's extravagant aid was withdrawn the Island has continued to decline:

ST. HELENA. 1894.

but it must be remembered that, when that change took place, very nearly the whole of the landed proprietors and upper classes, who were famed for their lavish hospitality, found themselves either involved in, or on the verge of, bankruptcy, and, being the product of what I have previously termed fictitious inflation, they were not likely to possess either the energy or the resource necessary to combat the changed condition of affairs. They certainly made no attempt to do so, and spent their time in extolling the past and feasting their memories upon the grand times that were gone.

Many of this class have only passed away in recent times, and they have, I doubt not, in a measure contributed to check the natural growth of enterprise which elsewhere characterises British colonists.

The position of St. Helena assures to her, however, in my opinion, prosperity in the future, as a coaling station, as a dockyard, and as a link in an ocean cable.

Beyond a few tons of guano, the Island until 1892 exported nothing, it being quite as, if not more, difficult for a sailing ship from the north to reach St. Helena as the Cape. It follows that the freight on coal sent by sailing ship to this place must necessarily be higher than to the Cape; but so soon as steam colliers replace sailing ones the freight to St. Helena will be 1,700 miles cheaper than to the Cape, and, as land suitable for the storage of coal can be acquired here at a very much lower rate than at the Cape, it should be possible for us to supply coal at a much lower price than they can possibly do. I wish it could be more generally known that St. Helena is an entirely free port save to vessels who land or ship cargo.

That the rocky bay adjoining Jamestown is admirably suitable for the construction of docks, experts have attested. The ground would cost nothing. The climate is in every way suited to European mechanics. The growing steam traffic to and *riâ* the Cape, and the requirements of Her Majesty's service on the West Coast of Africa, render it, to my mind, certain that the construction of docks in St. Helena must be undertaken.

The construction of docks will, however, occupy time, and it seems probable that before their completion St. Helena will form one link in an ocean cable. The large number of vessels passing here, bound for the Azores for orders, since the Portuguese laid a cable to those islands, is sufficient indication of the importance this Island would assume if connected by cable with England. Men-of-war from the West Coast, which now entirely lose touch with the Commander-in-Chief while at St. Helena, could remain here to recruit, until wanted. Commander Hewetson in his report says, "Nothing could more strikingly illustrate the want " of a cable than the recent departure of H.M.S. 'Phœbe' for " Sierra Leone (1,700 miles) in order to telegraph to the " Commander-in-Chief at the Cape, the captain at the time " being most anxious to remain at the Island and avoid the West " Coast owing to the large amount of sickness among his crew."

Five hundred and three vessels were sighted during the year (1893—516), and of these 195 called (1893—199) and 221 traded with licensed boatmen without calling (1893—193); and, although the number of vessels calling was four less than in the previous year, their tonnage rose from 273,344 to 280,634 tons. 12 vessels of war and transports called (1893—14).

The American whaling fleet shows a marked decline, and, as it is largely manned by Islanders, though not, I regret to say, owned by them, our loss has been considerable. The low price of oil and the general mercantile depression account in a great measure for this falling off.

If, however, commercial depression has adversely affected that portion of our population who are dependent upon the sea, it has been propitious for a still larger class. The unprecedentedly low rates obtaining in the wholesale markets of the world have reduced retail prices, still in most instances very high, to a figure never hitherto approached, and, as we are consumers only, the gain to all classes has been immense, while the consequent increased importation has very favourably affected our Customs revenue, which is levied upon the bulk, and not upon the value.

Revenue and Expenditure.

No changes were made in the duties or taxes.

The revenue and expenditure for 1894 were—

Revenue.	£	Expenditure.	£
Customs - - -	4,688	Administration - -	5,224
Taxes - - -	652	Pensions - - -	1,769
Rents - - - -	794	Hospital - - -	881
Other sources - - -	3,028	Total - - -	7,874
		Surplus - - -	1,288
Total - - -	9,162	Total - - -	9,162

Stamps to the value of 1,904*l.* sold and repurchased have been struck out of both sides of the above account.

For the three years ending 1891 we had recurring deficits, but for the last three years we have had a surplus, and our assets are now 18,066*l.* and our liabilities 16,232*l.*

Legislation.

Three Ordinances were enacted during the year:—

No. 1.—Relating to game and wild birds.
No. 2.—Relating to the harbour.
No. 3.—Supply.

The Game Law has been framed in the interest of sportsmen and for the protection of wild birds. The Island partridge is probably the "chukar" of northern India, and the ring-necked pheasant is from the same locality. Though it is not known when they were introduced, Cavendish speaks, in 1588, of there being on the island "a great store of partridges and likewise no less "plenty of pheasants, very big and fat."

Shooting commences on March 1st for partridges, and on April 15th for pheasants, and terminates on May 31st; rabbits may be shot at any time, but only by the holders of licences during the game season. The cost of a game licence is 3*l.* for the whole season, and 1*l.* for visitors for seven days.

The Game Law also protects all wild birds, but permits averdevats, canaries, cardinals, and Java sparrows to be taken or killed by licensed persons during four months of the year.

I found it necessary to extend to the indigenous "wire bird" of St. Helena (*Ægialitis Sanctæ Helenæ*) absolute protection, and to the sea birds (of which at least eight are indigenous) additional protection; and this has been done by the Ordinance.

The wire bird differs very materially from the small plover, which is generally distributed throughout the continent of Africa, and which has never been seen here.

In connection with game, I may mention that during 1894 five wild ducks came to St. Helena and remained seven or eight days. This is a somewhat remarkable circumstance, seeing that the nearest mainland is 1,200 miles distant.

The Harbour Ordinance confers upon the harbour master, a retired naval officer, additional powers to allocate berths to ships, and control the boats and boatmen, and generally to facilitate and improve the work of the port.

Pensions.

The pension list still occupies a disproportionate position in our balance sheet.

Of the total expenditure of 7,874*l.*, no less a sum than 1,769*l.* fell under that item.

Imports and Exports.

The value of the imports was 31,777*l.*, nearly 7,500*l.* less than in the previous year; but the low wholesale rates obtaining during the year, to which I have already alluded, fully accounts for this nominal decline.

The value of the exports, excluding specie, was 1,177*l.*, and in addition to this, whalebone and oil to the value of 14,717*l.* was transhipped in the harbour.

An interesting item, that of potatoes, first appears in our Export returns in 1892. The exports during the last three years have been :—

Year.	Bags.	Value.
		£
1892 - - -	570	355
1893 - - -	320	207
1894 - - -	1,160	772

Greater attention has been paid in recent years to the importation of reliable seed, and it has been found that the Cape will relieve us in large quantities of really good potatoes, such as are now produced.

It is satisfactory to note that the importation of wine, spirits, and beer declined during the year.

The figures are :—

Year.	Wine.	Spirits.	Beer.	
	Gallons.	Gallons.	Hogsheads.	Dozens.
1891 - - -	6,088	1,489	164	212
1892 - - -	6,387	1,688	301	273
1893 - - -	7,318	2,068	366	1,603
1894 - - -	7,187	1,931	173	232

The consumption per head shows a considerable decline :—

—	1890.	1894.
Beer - - - - -	25 bottles	12·2 bottles
Spirits - - - - -	2·6 „	2·9 „
Wines - - - - -	12 „	10 „
Tobacco - - - -	1·75 lbs.	1·77 lbs.
Sugar - - - - -	67 „	106·3 „

Population and Vital Statistics.

The health of the Island was very satisfactory with the exception of infantine mortality, which was high. The death-rate of 18·8 per 1,000 is so ordinary as to invite no comment; but an examination of the figures yields a result sufficiently remarkable to justify my submitting some details, which demonstrate the extent to which our able-bodied ranks have been depleted by

ST. HELENA. 1894.

emigration, while they bring out in extraordinary relief the remarkable healthiness of the Island.

The death-rate of those under 10 years was 43·6 per 1,000.

The death-rate of those over 10 and under 70 years was 6·3 per 1,000.

The death-rate of those over 70 years was 126·6 per 1,000.

Hospital.

The hospital was entirely re-organised during the year, under the able supervision of Miss Rose A. Blennerhassett, of Mashonaland fame. Skilled nursing was previously unknown, and, as the Island occupies the position of an ocean hospital for passing ships and many cases are landed in a deplorable condition, this improvement has had marked results, not one sailor having died in hospital during the year. 113 cases, of whom 41 were sailors, were treated, and only three deaths occurred. The average number of deaths during the previous 10 years has been 9·6, and the lowest seven.

Tristan d'Acunha.

In April I visited Tristan d'Acunha in the flagship "Raleigh." This little island lies about 1,500 miles almost due south of St. Helena and about the same distance west of the Cape of Good Hope.

I found the 61 inhabitants, consisting of 18 males, 23 females, and 20 children, under the nominal control of the aged Peter W. Green, in excellent health and desiring the help of the chaplain rather than of the doctor of the ship.

The climate is an admirable one, and the general condition of the inhabitants leaves little to be desired from a material point of view. For many years the Rev. Edwin H. Dodgson lived and laboured there, apparently quite content with the frugal fare, and even reconciled to only one annual mail, brought by a man-of-war. Mr. Dodgson went to England in 1892, and the closing of the school which he conducted is much deplored.

The live stock consists of 600 cattle, 500 sheep, a few pigs and donkeys, some poultry, and a large number of geese.

The potato crop is largely relied upon, and those we procured were of good quality. The settlement consists of stone-built cottages scattered over a common, lying at the foot of the precipitous and lofty mountain, and their whole style of life reminds one of the crofters.

The inhabitants are total abstainers, not perhaps from choice so much as from necessity, and they certainly form a strong argument in favour of teetotalism.

Occasional expeditions are made in open boats to Inaccessible Island, 20 miles distant, for seals, which they rely on for their lights.

The albatross, which formerly abounded in Tristan d'Acunha and furnished large quantities of eggs, has now quite disappeared, owing to the wild cats, which are very numerous, and which it

may now be hoped will devote themselves to reduce the plague of rats.

Savings Bank.

The number of depositors in the bank has more than doubled during the past 10 years (72 to 145), and the deposits have more than trebled (4,000*l.* to 13,000*l.*). The bulk of the working classes, however, prefer to invest their savings in one or other of the numerous Friendly Societies.

Education.

The improved financial condition has enabled us to provide assistant teachers for all the Government schools, a much needed and long deferred reform.

Military Expenditure.

The cost of the garrison, which consists of engineers, artillery, and infantry, was borne entirely by the Imperial Government.

Meteorology.

I transmit a report, by Mr. H. S. Hands, of the meteorological observations of the year, which show a marked improvement upon the records of the previous year. The initial difficulties experienced with the anemograph have been overcome, and the records are now continuous and (I think) reliable.

The greatest wind pressure during the year was 11·5 lbs.; but this only continued for one hour. 97·5 per cent. of the year was windy and 2·5 per cent. calm. The maximum heat recorded in the country was 82 and the minimum 48.

The rainfall was:—

Centre of Island,	39	inches.	
East	„	24	„
West	„	33	„

These figures confirm previous observations and demonstrate the remarkable variation of the rainfall in a range of only seven miles.

Conclusion.

The Island has been entirely free from serious crimes. The condition of the people has improved, and, if remunerative employment can be found for the large number of unemployed women and children, we shall have solved one very great difficulty. The establishment of a fish-curing factory is now being promoted as a purely commercial operation, and in that form it presents very much greater prospects of a satisfactory solution than as a philanthropic undertaking. The great abundance of excellent fish, and the absolute security of the fishing fleet which the absence of all atmospherical disturbances here affords, should greatly conduce to its success.

I have, &c.

W. GREY WILSON.

METEOROLOGY, 1894.

Rainfall.

The record of rainfall compares very favourably with the previous year, the totals being :—

	1893.	1894.
St. Matthew's Vicarage (Central), altitude 1,900 feet approx.	Inches. 40·344	Inches. 39·078
Longwood (East), altitude 1,780 feet -	28·070	24·600
Woodlands (West), altitude 2,050 feet -	31·770	32·960

The greatest amount fell, as has been the case since the record was begun there in 1892, at the first station, and the greatest daily record, 1·65 inches, was recorded at Woodlands on the 31st May.

A marked difference of 63 per cent. occurs between the first and second stations, but this may be accounted for by their situation. The former is nearly surrounded by hills and in closer proximity to the highest peak, whereas the latter lies on a nearly level plateau.

Barometer.

The greatest atmospherical pressure, 28·264 inches, occurred on the 26th June, and the least, 28·020 inches, on the 2nd March; so that the absolute range of the barometer during the year was only 0·244 inches.

Temperature.

The mean absolute maximum temperature recorded during the three years' observation at St. Matthew's Vicarage was 77·2, and the mean absolute minimum 50·7; showing the extreme range in that period to be, on the average, 25°. The difference between the hottest and coldest months was 9° which may be taken as the difference in temperature between the town and country.

The absolute maximum registered in 1894 was 82°, and the absolute minimum 48°, in February and August respectively at Woodlands.

Wind.

Much more satisfactory results were obtained than in the previous year from the anemometer erected at St. Matthew's Vicarage in the beginning of 1892.

The mean monthly record was 18 miles an hour, corresponding to a pressure of 1·6 lbs. on the square foot. The force of 50 miles, or a pressure of 11·5 lbs. on the square foot, was registered for one hour only on the 25th September, and is the highest recorded since observations have been taken. The lowest recorded was eight miles an hour, or a pressure of five ounces on the square foot.

The average number of days the wind blew from the south-east was 55 per cent.; from the south-south-east, 27 per cent.; from the east-south-east, 11 per cent.; and from variable quarters, 4·5; with 2·5 of calm days.

H. S. HANDS.

COLONIAL REPORTS.—ANNUAL.

No. 176.

ST. HELENA.

ANNUAL REPORT FOR 1895.

(For Report for 1894, *see* No. 154 of this Series.)

Presented to both Houses of Parliament by Command of Her Majesty.
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ANNUAL.

No.	Colony.	Year.
142	Malta	1894
143	Gambia	1894
144	Windward Islands	"
145	Trinidad and Tobago	"
146	Gibraltar	"
147	Falkland Islands	"
148	Hong Kong	"
149	Straits Settlements	"
150	Lagos	"
151	Seychelles	"
152	Basutoland	"
153	Fiji	1894–5
154	St. Helena	1894
155	Ceylon	"
156	Mauritius	"
157	Labuan	"
158	Gold Coast	"
159	British Guiana	"
160	Sierra Leone	"
161	Jamaica	"
162	British Honduras	1894–5
163	British Bechuanaland	1894
164	Newfoundland	1894-5
165	Gambia	1895
166	Bermuda	"
167	Leeward Islands	"
168	British New Guinea	"
169	Zululand	1894–5
170	Sierra Leone	1895
171	Gibraltar	"
172	Malta	"
173	Barbados	"
174	Turks and Caicos Islands	"
175	Falkland Islands	"
		"

MISCELLANEOUS.

No.	Colony.	Subject.
1	Gold Coast	Economic Agriculture.
2	Zululand	Forests.
3	Sierra Leone	Geology and Botany.
4	Canada	Emigration.
5	Bahamas	Sisal Industry.
6	Hong Kong	Bubonic Plauge.
7	Newfoundland	Mineral Resources.

No. 176.

ST. HELENA.

(For Report for 1894, *see* No. 154.)

The Acting Governor to Mr. Chamberlain.

The Castle, St. Helena,
May 29, 1896.

Sir,

I have the honour to forward the Blue Book of this Island for 1895.

The Governor, Mr. Grey-Wilson, C.M.G., administered the Government till the 27th December, when he left on six months' leave of absence, and I assumed the administration under Her Majesty's Commission dated 23rd September 1895.

I am glad to be able to report continued improvement in the general state of affairs financially and otherwise. There was, however, considerable anxiety during the greater part of the year lest the prolongation of the severe drought from which the Island has for some time suffered should cause serious loss of stock to the farmers, who had already experienced the failure of their hay and potato crops.

All such gloomy forebodings have now been removed by a seasonable fall of rain and there is every prospect of a good year coming.

Revenue and Expenditure.

The revenue of the year 1895 was 9,762*l.*, which is the largest since the year 1888, and the expenditure was 8,063*l.*, leaving a surplus of 1,699*l.* The revenue and expenditure for 1894 and the average of the preceding five years is given below:

—	1894.	1889 to 1893.
Revenue - - -	9,162	8,049
Expenditure -	7,874	8,276

The higher average over revenue arises from deficits in the first three years, since which time there has been a surplus.

ST. HELENA. 1895.

The following table shows the main heads of income and expenditure.

	1894.	1895.	Increase.	Decrease.		1894.	1895.	Increase.	Decrease.
	£	£	£			£	£	£	£
Customs - - -	4,688	5,024	336		Administration -	5,224	5,460	236	—
Taxes - - -	652	752	100		Hospital - -	881	814	—	67
Rents - - -	794	827	33		Pensions - -	1,769	1,788	19	—
Post Office - -	1,959	2,021	62		Total - -	7,874	8,062	—	—
Other sources - -	1,069	1,137	68		Surplus - -	—	1,699	—	—
Total - - -	9,162	9,761	599		Total - - -	—	9,761	255	67

The chief source of revenue being Customs, the increase under this head is the greatest and it is due principally to additional imports of flour and rice, amounting to nearly 3,000 bags, and 1,000 tons of coal. There is nothing to call for special remark as regards the other sources of revenue.

Assets and Liabilities.

The surplus assets of the Colony at the end of the year amounted to 4,148*l.*, the figures being—

	£
Assets - - - - -	21,157
Liabilities - - - -	17,009

Pensions.

The pension list remained unaltered and is still a heavy charge on the Colony.

Savings Bank.

1894.—Number of depositors 145, amount deposited 7,014*l.*
1895.—Number of depositors 164, amount deposited 3,874*l.*

Although the amount deposited during the year is less than in the preceding one, still the increase in the number of depositors shows a healthy state of affairs and that thrift is on the increase amongst those for whom this class of Bank was specially created.

The value of the investments amounted to 14,022*l.*

Imports and Exports.

The imports from the United Kingdom amounted to 22,263*l.* and from the Colonies and elsewhere to 11,481*l.*, total 33,744*l.*, an increase of 1,967*l.* over 1894, this does not include oil and bone and provisions transhipped by the whaling vessels, which amounted to 8,642*l.*, a considerable decline from the preceding year when oil and bone to the value of 14,717*l.* were transhipped.

The importation of beer rose from 173 to 326 hogsheads, and from 234 dozen to 652 dozen, which is, I think, a normal consumption. The decrease of 1894 was probably owing to large stocks in hand, as the imports of the previous year were abnormally high, viz., 366 hogsheads and 1,603 dozens. Wines reached a much lower figure than has been the case for the last four years, being 1,328 gallons less than in the previous year. Spirits increased by 232 gallons. Tobacco showed a slight decrease. The duties on the whole showed a small increase of 84*l.*

The exports were very trifling, reaching only 334*l.* after deducting specie to the extent of 3,980*l.* This is to be deplored, for the export trade in potatoes seemed to be on the increase and had attained to 772*l.* in 1894. Last year, however, only 109*l.* worth of potatoes were exported to Ascension; and wool to the extent of 225*l.* to England.

Shipping.

The number of vessels which have communicated with the Island exclusive of those boarded by licensed traders was 203, which is eight more than in 1894. The following figures show the results of the previous five years which give 207 on the average.

——	1890.	1891.	1892.	1893.	1894.	1895.
Number of vessels - -	211	211	223	1[illegible]	195	203

Commander Hewetson, R.N., the harbour master, reports: "I "do not anticipate that there will be any decided increase unless "the island is connected to the outer world by a cable. The "number of English men-of-war calling was 12, which is one "more than in 1894. The ships only stay here a short time on "account of their being out of touch with the Admiral."

The vessels boarded by licensed traders were 187 in number, and from these 545 letters were brought ashore and posted. It is probable that many more letters would be posted were the postage reduced from 6*d.* to 2½*d.* 464 ships which did not communicate were observed from the signalling stations.

Population and Vital Statistics.

The total population at the time of the last census, in 1891, was 4,116, including garrison and shipping, but it is now estimated at 3,921. The garrison has been increased from 151 men to 204; but emigration has been going on steadily as the Cape Colony offers many inducements to the younger people of this island The encouragement of this emigration is to be deprecated, for if

it goes on the labour question will be a serious one, and if any industry on a large scale is attempted, such as the extended cultivation of coffee or fibre, it could hardly be carried out without imported labour. The fishery scheme if accomplished would provide work in a direction where it is most needed, that of the employment of women and children. The female population considerably outnumbers the male. The births are nearly double the deaths, being 29 per 1,000 against 15 per 1,000, which has been the case for years past, and yet the population steadily decreases, and in a way which in time must result in a residue of females and decrepids. Many of the girls are anxious to go to the Cape as domestic servants if they could see their way to finding the passage money, but as long as the present high rate of passage money continues, there can be no relief in this direction.

General Goodenough, when he was here on inspection duty, initiated a fund amongst the soldiers (which now amounts to about 20*l.*), in order to assist some of the girls to emigrate, and the valuable aid of the Salvation Army here, and at the Cape, has been enlisted to look after the welfare of such girl emigrants whilst on the voyage and on landing, but as yet the fund is not large enough to be of material service.

A slight epidemic of measles prevailed during the latter end of the year, but it was generally of a mild type; on the whole, the year was healthy.

Hospital.

Dr. Welby was in charge throughout the year, and the general management of the hospital is very good. Miss Williams succeeded Miss Blennerhasset as superintendent, with Miss L. Hart as nurse, and under these two ladies, who are most assiduous in their duties, the management is most satisfactory; 137 patients were admitted and the deaths were 10.

Lunatic Asylum.

Total number of inmates, six.

One was admitted during the year, and there were no deaths. The condition of the asylum and the treatment of the patients is engaging my attention, for I find that hitherto no steps have been taken to amuse or instruct the inmates during their lucid moments.

Education.

There is not much to report under this head, the need for some efficient legislation for the compulsory education of children, who are now running wild about the Island, has resulted in the revision of the Education Ordinance of 1874, and a new Ordinance on this subject will probably be issued during the current year.

Meteorolggy.

The rainfall at three stations was as follows:—

Central	- 32·305 ins. :	9¼ ins. less than in 1894.
East -	- 20·96 „ ;	3½ „ „
West -	- 23·80 „ ;	9 „ „

The greatest monthly rainfall was 7·940 inches at St. Matthew's Vicarage in June.

The greatest daily fall was 1·260 inches in the same month at the same place. Dry in comparison with previous year.

The maximum temperature at Woodlands (west) was 80° in March and May, and the minimum at Woodlands (west) 49° in August.

The mean for the year at St. Matthew's Vicarage at 9 a.m. was 62°. The mean maximum and minimum at the same station were 67° and 57° respectively.

98 per cent. of the year was windy and 2 per cent. calm; the greatest wind pressure was 8lbs. on the square foot.

The mean pressure of the barometer at 9 a.m. at St. Matthew's Vicarage was 28·132.

Agriculture.

The year under report has not been a good one; the long continued drought had severely affected root crops and pasturage, and the condition of the live stock in the Island when I landed in December was such as to remind me of Pharaoh's lean kine, and the supply of milk and butter had fallen considerably below the demand; the effects of the scarcity of moisture were to be seen everywhere, the hill sides, the fields, and the gardens alike suffered, for the failure of the springs hindered the irrigation of the latter, and many of the cottage farmers lost their usual crops. The gardens were also infested by insect pests.

The hay crop was a total failure, as also was the potato crop, not even seed potatoes were saved; I think, however, that, apart from natural causes, agriculture in this island has suffered from a want of energy. The arduous cultivation of the soil has given place to the easier task of cattle farming, for the plain reason that the ground in many places is played out for want of manuring, and that as long as beef and mutton are required for the garrison there is a market for live stock, but even this market is limited and the competition has hitherto been great, for contractors could not buy all that the farmers were ready to sell. It seems to me, therefore, a pity that much first class land should be under pasturage, when, at all events, a portion of it should be devoted to crops suitable for fattening purposes. Scientific manuring is a thing almost unknown, and much manure that is available in the island is wasted for want of proper application; I look forward, however, to the newly revived Agricultural Society to do much in the future, already a beginning has been made, although its operations do not come within the year under report. Seeds of

the newest varieties of root and green crops have been imported, and a general interest has been aroused, which I hope will not be allowed to subside. The fruit crop suffered much during the year from insect foes; peaches, which were abundant, were entirely destroyed by a maggot, the product of a fly which lays its eggs on the unripe fruit, and the larvæ, finding their way into the interior, gather round the stone and grow with the fruit, which in time may ripen and be tempting to the eye, but which would be found a mass of decay on being opened. I estimate that tons of peaches were so destroyed throughout the Island. The tree here being a large standard it is not so easy to apply insecticides as in England, where the peach is chiefly cultivated as a wall fruit. Specimens of the fly, larvæ and pupæ have been sent to England for scientific investigation, and we await with interest the expert's report.

There is a great want of purely insectivorous birds in the Island, especially those that capture their prey on the wing. The birds that have been imported and acclimatized are mostly finches (Fringillidæ) which live chiefly on grain and to a lesser degree on insect grubs, but what we require are the flycatchers (Muscicapidæ), warblers (Motacillæ), tits (Paridæ), and swallows (Hirundacæ). I have written to the Cape to see if such birds can be obtained, there are great difficulties in the way of feeding in transit, but the Cape passage is the shortest. A few years ago Mr. Grey Wilson obtained from thence a bird called the White-eye (Zosterops Capensis), of which a number were liberated at Plantation, but they did not succeed and are presumably all dead as none have been seen for some time.

Industries.

The only industry in the Island which is carried on to a small extent, and is capable of much extension, is coffee growing. The St. Helena coffee, which has descended from the true Mocha stock imported by the East India Company, is of excellent quality, and the trees bear wonderfully well, considering they are never manured. The dry season seems to have been favourable to them for the crop was exceptionally heavy, a small patch of coffee in Plantation grounds, containing about 286 bushes, yielded about 428 lbs. of dried coffee, an average of 1½ lbs. per bush, but in Sandy Bay the yield of coffee per bush is nearly double. I am glad to see that this industry is engaging the attention of the islanders, one small farmer in Sandy Bay has put much of his property under coffee cultivation and he finds it more profitable than general farming. Mr. Jackson, of Jamestown, is willing to purchase from growers the fresh fruit at a fixed rate per pound and he has erected machinery for cleaning and roasting the berry.

I am of opinion that tea could also be grown to a limited extent for home consumption, and I brought out with me a practical tea grower, a native of Assam, who for nine years was overseer of a large garden. He approves of the climate and soil, and

from a few plants of the China variety, which we discovered in Plantation grounds, he made, after pruning the bushes and allowing them time to flush, a small sample of fair black tea. Some Assam seed has been sent for, and on its arrival a small nursery will be established and plants distributed to several residents, who have expressed a wish to try the cultivation.

Bee-keeping.

I am glad to see that three residents on the Island are taking much interest in bee-keeping. I have arranged for importation of the Italian bee to improve the existing stock, and have introduced the Californian beeflower (Phacelia tanacetifolia).

Fisheries.

I am still convinced that fish curing is the industry for St. Helena, but it must be carried out by English agency, the islanders are too apathetic to start it properly, but when once started it ought to give employment to a number of women and children. Rupert's Valley would be an admirable site for the purpose, and the old slave barracks are just suited for drying sheds, the anchorage is good and a small landing pier could be made without much expense. I am having some experiments made in dry curing, and the result will be submitted to London experts for opinion. The fish cured have been cavally, mackerel, bonito and albicore, of which about 360lbs. are ready for shipment.

The mackerel prove to be of good size, weighing, when caught, about 1lb. and when dried from 4 to 5½ ozs. Fish loses about 80 per cent. in process of drying. The dried cavally runs from 12½ ozs. to 1 lb. 14 ozs. Bonito about 3½ lbs., and albicore about 15 lbs., each. The latter fish is the same as the tunny of the Mediterranean, in which so large a trade is done. I know of one fishery in which about 60,000*l.* is invested. The fishing in the Mediterranean is done by nets of a mile in length, here nets are not used for any kind of fish, and the boats are small open ones, quite unsuited for large operations.

I have, &c.

R. A. STERNDALE,
Acting Governor.

COLONIAL REPORTS—ANNUAL.

No. 213.

ST. HELENA.

ANNUAL REPORT FOR 1896.

(For Report for 1895, *see* No. 176.)

Presented to both Houses of Parliament by Command of Her Majesty.
October, 1897.

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183	Mauritius and Rodrigues	1894 and 1895
184	British Honduras	1895
185	Lagos	,,
186	Basutoland	1895–96
187	Ceylon	1895
188	British Guiana	1895–96
189	Gold Coast	1895
190	Jamaica	1895–96
191	Canada	1895
192	Bermuda	1896
193	Bahamas...	,,
194	Zululand	,,
195	Gambia	,,
196	Malta	,,
197	British New Guinea	1895–96
198	Turks and Caicos Islands	1896
199	Barbados	,,
200	Leeward Islands	1895
201	Trinidad and Tobago	1896
202	Gibraltar	,,
203	Fiji (Trade)	,,
204	Straits Settlements	1895
205	Do. do.	1896
206	Falkland Islands	,,
207	British Honduras	,,
208	Sierra Leone	,,
209	Grenada	,,
210	Hong Kong	,,
211	St. Lucia	,,
212	St. Vincent	,,

MISCELLANEOUS.

No.	Colony.	Subject.
1	Gold Coast...	Economic Agriculture.
2	Zululand	Forests.
3	Sierra Leone	Geology and Botany.
4	Canada	Emigration.
5	Bahamas	Sisal Industry.
6	Hong Kong	Bubonic Plague.
7	Newfoundland	Mineral Resources.
8	Western Pacific	Solomon Islands.

No. 213.

ST. HELENA.

(For Report for 1895, *see* No. 176 of this Series).

GOVERNOR GREY WILSON to MR. CHAMBERLAIN.

The Castle, St. Helena,

1st April, 1897.

SIR,

I HAVE the honour to transmit the Blue Book of this Island for the year 1896.

As this is the last St. Helena Blue Book upon which I shall report, I propose making a somewhat more general survey than is usual.

My administration of the Government of the Island extends to very nearly ten years, and embraces the whole of the period of the Island's greatest depression, I might almost say prostration.

Only Governor Janisch's term of office has exceeded 10 years, and the only previous instance of a Governor being translated from St. Helena was when Colonel Gore Browne, C.B. was appointed in 1854 Governor of New Zealand.

The returns for 1896 happily exhibit no cessation of the gradual recovery of the last few years, although the revenue in 1896 fell somewhat below that of the previous year, in which a considerable sum was received from the sale of obsolete stamps.

The return Appendix A. shows that in 1891 the Revenue fell to the lowest recorded point, and that in 1892 the first surplus for 10 years marked that change in the tide of our financial condition that has since been maintained without interruption.

Notwithstanding the very serious nature of the depression through which the Island has passed, the liquidation of the heavy debt has been steadily continued and completed, the requirements of the very heavy pension list have been punctually

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ST. HELENA. 1896.

met; and the Government has faithfully and efficiently discharged the ever increasing demands which modern development and progress have made upon it. I cannot too gratefully acknowledge the services rendered, under very trying circumstances, to the Island and to me, by the Civil servants.

REVENUE.

The chief source of revenue is the Custom House. Thirty years ago the yield under this head was close upon £16,000, and last year it yielded £4,807.

During this period there has been no change in the dues, which are as follows:—

	s.	d.
Tobacco per lb. unmanufactured - -	0	6
„ „ manufactured - -	1	0
Spirits per gallon - - - -	10	0
Beer 36 gallons - - - -	12	8
Wine per gallon - - - -	2	6

On all other goods a wharfage equal to about 4 per cent *ad valorem* is levied, but as the wharves and cranes are entirely maintained at Government expense this impost cannot be regarded as a tax, and should be viewed in the light of a Dock Company's Revenue.

The financial recovery of the last few years has been in spite of the almost entire disappearance of the vessel in distress—from which source prior to 1889 a considerable annual revenue could be relied on.

IMPORTS AND EXPORTS.

The value of the imports was £30,950, and of the exports £4,739 including £3,993 in specie.

The decline in the price of whale oil has caused the withdrawal of the American whaling fleet.

This, though probably only a temporary one, is not the less a serious blow, as the whaling fleet gives employment to a considerable number of Islanders and spends large sums of money on Island produce.

The export of potatoes to the Cape was satisfactory and remunerative.

The Customs duties collected during the year shew an increase on previous years in the quantities of wine, beer, spirits, and tobacco.

The figures are—

Year.	Wine.	Spirits.	Beer.		Tobacco.
			Hhds.	Doz.	
	Gallons.	Gallons.			lbs.
1891	6,088	1,489	164	212	5,923
1892	6,387	1,688	301	273	7,595
1893	7,318	2,068	366	1,603	6,453
1894	7,187	1,931	173	234	7,067
1895	5,859	2,163	326	652	6,442
1896	6,912	2,191	402	863	7,700

The Shipping and Revenue and Expenditure Returns for the last 30 years (*see* Appendices A and B) show how continuous was the decline of the Island from the fictitiously inflated times of the East India Company's administration of the Island.

So long as the Garrison maintained was in the proportion of about 1 soldier to every 10 inhabitants, no extreme pressure was felt, but it was impossible for the reduction of the large executive, which even the halcyon days could not justify, to be carried out without a dangerous straining of the financial position.

The retrenchments were never made in anticipation of the decline, but only as the result of the financial difficulties resulting from the effects of such decline, and they consequently always failed to afford any adequate relief. For it must be borne in mind that the reduction of the establishment meant the swelling of the Pension List which, as will be seen from Appendix D, reached inordinate dimensions, and the undue proportions of this expenditure, the greater part of which went to non-residents, was for very many years and still is, to a smaller extent, a heavy drain upon the resources of the Island.

The Pension List continues to defy the laws long since ascertained and laid down by Actuaries. Our four oldest pensioners were born respectively in 1798, 1802, 1809, and 1810, and I am glad to be able to report continue to enjoy excellent health.

That the Pension List, *see* Appendix C, has been and is a serious drain upon the limited revenue—of which it absorbed

nearly one quarter in 1896—cannot be denied; but as it is, so far as the Government are concerned, an irreducible quantity, provision must continue to be made for it at the expense of the existing civil establishment.

PUBLIC DEBT.

The whole of the £19,500 borrowed by the Government between the years 1868 and 1872, at the rate of 7 per cent. per annum, has been repaid.

In addition to that sum the Imperial Parliament lent the Colony, in 1871-72, a sum of £5,158, free of interest, and this sum has not yet been repaid.

The expenditure has now been brought well within the revenue, and I do not anticipate that it will again exceed it.

The sum borrowed by the Government and the grants in aid from the Imperial Exchequer, were expended upon the repair of public buildings and to make good the deficiency of the revenue to meet the normal current expenditure. No public works of a remunerative nature have ever been undertaken in St. Helena, and although it would no doubt be legitimate to raise money for such a purpose as the renewal of the water service, so that the cost should fall, in part, upon those who derive benefit hereafter therefrom, yet happily this service can be more than adequately met from extraordinary revenue.

The excess of assets over liabilities on the 31st of December, 1896, was very nearly sufficient to repay the Imperial loan of £5,158, and the waterworks scheme, now ripe for execution at a cost of about £2,400, can be most legitimately defrayed from the sale of obsolete postage stamps, which I have recently sent home to the value of £8,447.

After providing for these services there should, at the close of 1897, be a balance in hand of at least 6,000*l.*, which, in my opinion, should be invested as the nucleus of a Reserve Fund to meet unforeseen emergencies.

That such emergencies will arise in St. Helena, the past places beyond controversy.

The disastrous floods which have occurred will certainly be repeated, although the defensive measures adopted may mitigate their effect, and it is probable that the wharf will, from time to time, sustain damage from the February rollers, although none of a really serious nature have occurred for many years past.

PUBLIC WORKS.

The maintenance of public buildings, forests and roads, water supply and drainage cost £1,650, of which about £500 was expended in building a sea wall and on the extension of the wharf to provide for the erection of a new crane for coaling purposes.

In March 1894 H.M.S "Phœbe" put in to coal here on her way to take part in the Gambia operations after the disaster of that year.

Every effort was made to expedite the operations, and 420 tons were put on board in 28½ continuous hours, which at the time was deemed remarkably satisfactory.

I anticipate that the new work now completed will enable the Colony to double the rate of delivery in any future time of emergency.

LEGISLATION.

The only Ordinance of interest passed during the year was to empower the Governor in Council to fix the rates of postage, and on the 1st of October St. Helena entered the Postal Union, and acquired the long desired and long delayed boon of 2½*d.* postage to all countries of the Union.

This enormous gain to the poor of the Island, whose friends and relations are to a very large extent domiciled in South Africa, had been under consideration for long, and was dependent upon the financial exigencies.

ASSETS AND LIABILITIES.

The Assets and Liabilities account exhibits continued improvement. (*See* Appendix D.)

Twenty years ago the Liabilities exceeded the Assets by one-and-a-half times the annual revenue of to-day; ten years ago they exceeded the assets by rather more than half the annual revenue; while to-day the Assets exceed the Liabilities by rather more than half the amount of the annual revenue.

The Savings Bank was established in 1866, and for very many years received only slender support. Thus in 1886, in its 20th year, there were only 84 depositors with an average holding of £69 each. During the last ten years the number of depositors has risen to 180 with an average holding of £91, and I think the progress of the last few years indicates a better appreciation of the advantages of the Savings Bank and a weakening of the reliance upon the old stocking mode of banking.

The somewhat slow progress of the Savings Bank is due to two causes. First, doubt as to the absolute safety of the deposits; and second, the fear that friends and relations might get to know, not only that money had been saved, but more or less the value of those savings.

The Appendix E shows the progress made by the Savings Bank since its initiation.

CALLING SHIPS.

Only 151 ships called during the year. Of these 89 were British and 64 Foreign. Of the British 10 were Men-of-war, and of the Foreign one was a Man-of-war.

The falling off from the previous year was 52, the largest percentage in any year since the opening of the Suez Canal, when the calling vessels numbered 853.

The return (*see* Appendix B), shows all vessels which have called since 1886, and it also shows the number of calling vessels, that is vessels trading with bumboat-men without obtaining pratique under the Passing Ships Ordinance, 1886.

It will be seen that the number of the "passing vessels" continues steadily to increase.

I transmit Comr. Hewetson's report upon shipping, which in his opinion must visit the Island in ever diminishing quantities until we are connected by cable with the outside world.

METEOROLOGY.

I transmit a report, by Mr. H. S. Hands, of the meteorological observations of the year. Progress has been made, and two fresh stations, "North" and "South" have been started which will contribute much to the value of those records.

Although it has long been known that the rainfall of this small Island exhibited remarkable local variation, it has always been assumed that the centre of the Island was the wettest. It now, however, appears probable that the southern station will dispute the claim of the central one in this respect.

The registered rainfall in 1896 was—

		Inches.
Centre of Island	-	40
East " "	-	27
West " "	-	25
South " "	-	41 in 11 months.
North " "	-	6 in 11 months.

POPULATION AND VITAL STATISTICS.

The health of the Island was very satisfactory, with the exception of the infant mortality, which was high.

The death rate was 14·9 per 1,000, but these figures convey an inadequate picture of the extreme healthiness of the Island, when allowance has been made for the depletion, by emigration, of the able-bodied population.

The population was estimated at the end of 1896 to be 3,890.

CONCLUSION.

It has too long been assumed that St. Helena is incapable of progress because the fictitiously inflated Napoleonic and subsequent period have dazzled the eye and prevented a due appreciation of her value and merits. This value and these merits are, I am satisfied, of too substantial and satisfactory a nature to be permanently lost sight of. That some progress has been made I think I have demonstrated : and the intense affection with which all her sons and daughters are bound to her, even after years of separation—an affection, with which even I, a passing unit, have become strongly impregnated—afford a guarantee of further substantial progress and future prosperity.

I have, &c.,

W. GREY WILSON.

ST. HELENA. 1896.

APPENDIX A.

RECEIPTS AND EXPENDITURE, 1866 TO 1896.

Year.	Revenue.		Total Revenue exclusive of Grants and Loans.	Total Expenditure including repayment of debt.	Surplus.	Deficit.	Grants from Paliament.	Loans.
	Customs.	Other sources.						
	£	£	£	£	£	£	£	£
1866	17,257	5,895	23,152	26,110	..	2,958	..	5,000
1867	17,159	5,867	23,026	27,113	..	4,087	..	..
1868	13,402	5,304	18,706	26,203	..	7,497	3,000	5,000
1869	15,076	5,704	20,780	24,6.6	..	3,846	..	5,000
1870	11,094	4,880	15,974	18,943	..	2,969	..	1,:50
1871	10,621	4,937	15,558	18,439	..	2,881	..	950 } *
1872	10,121	3,807	13,928	27,376	..	13,448	..	{ 4,208 }
1873	11,138	3,842	14,980	16,699	..	1,719	..	{ 8,250
1874	10,003	3,979	13,982	14,522	..	540	..	..
1875	10,041	3,575	13,616	14,040	..	424	..	..
1876	9,555	3,612	13,167	13,329	..	162	5,500	..
1877	9,808	2,973	12,781	18,007	..	5,226	..	..
1878	10,517	3,681	14,198	12,815	1,383	..	..	..
1879	10,470	3,685	14,155	12,486	1,669	..	..	..
1880	8,547	3,403	11,950	11,870	80	..	..	..
1881	9,198	3,228	12,426	12,801	..	375	..	..
1882	8,253	3,247	11,500	11,212	288	..		..
1883	7,091	3,175	10,266	11,145	..	879	Grants for Mail Service.	..
1884	6,611	3,360	9,971	10,807	..	836	450	..
1885	6,017	3,032	9,049	†13,099	..	4,050	2,050	..
1886	6,580	3,606	10,186	†11,210	..	1,024	1,914	..
1887	4,590	3,454	8,044	†11,382	..	3,338	3,000	..
‡1888	5,841	3,425	9,266	†10,448	..	1,182	2,275	..
1889	4,891	3,518	8,409	†8,979	..	570	100	..
							†9,789.	..
1890	5,656	3,073	8,729	9,032	..	303	..	..
1891	3,.04	3,170	6,874	8,288	..	1,414	..	..
1892	4,352	3,339	7,691	7,445	246	..	..	..
1893	5,046	3,500	8,546	7,637	909	..	..	..
1894	4,688	6,377	11,065	9,777	1,288	..	..	..
1895	5,023	4,639	9,762	8,063	1,699	..	..	..
1896	4,807	4,353	9,160	8,872	288	..	..	..
				Total Loans and Grants in Aid	..	..	£18,289	24,658

* £5,158 lent by Imperial Government without interest. The other was at 7 per cent.
† Including payments for Mail Service amounting in the five years to £9,789.
‡ Since 1889 the Imperial Government has paid the Mail subsidy, and the Colony has only paid for the actual Mails carried.

APPENDIX B.

SHIPPING.

Year.	Ships sighted.	Passed without any communication.	Traded with Boatmen.	Called.	Called and Traded with Boatmen.
1886	686	290	19	377	396
1887	619	193	109	317	427
1888	641	145	166	330	496
1889	604	55	261	288	549
1890	480	73	196	211	407
1891	502	39	252	211	463
1892	562	150	189	223	412
1893	516	124	193	199	392
1894	503	87	221	195	416
1895	854	464	187	203	390
1896	No record	No record	No record	151	—

APPENDIX C.

PENSIONS.

Year.	Pensions.	Revenue.
	£	£
1866	1,312	23,152
1867	1,354	23,026
1868	1,887	18,706
1869	1,758	20,780
1870	1,736	15,974
1871	1,564	15,558
1872	2,750	13,928
1873	3,255	14,980
1874	3,189	13,982
1875	3,107	13,616
1876	2,990	13,167
1877	3,009	12,781
1878	2,984	14,198
1879	2,816	14,155
1880	2,276	11,950
1881	1,817	12,426
1882	1,805	11,500
1883	1,805	10,266
1884	2,072	9,971
1885	2,298	9,049

PENSIONS—(*continued*).

Year.	Pensions.	Revenue.
	£	£
1886	2,422	10,186
1887	2,203	8,044
1888	2,053	9,266
1889	1,890	8,409
1890	1,901	8,729
1891	1,848	6,874
1892	1,758	7,691
1893	1,758	8,546
1894	1,801	11,065*
1895	1,760	9,762
1896	1,801	9,160

* Includes 1904 stamps sold and afterwards repurchased by Government.

APPENDIX D.

ASSETS AND LIABILITIES.

Year.	Assets.*	Liabilities.*	Excess of Liabilities.	Excess of Assets.
	£	£	£	£
1877	3,999	16,405	12,406	
1878	5,785	16,035	10,250	
1879	7,456	16,048	8,592	
1880	7,208	15,523	8,315	
1881	6,969	15,192	8,223	
1882	6,821	13,305	6,584	
1883	7,164	11,343	4,179	
1884	6,251	10,748	4,497	
1885	4,490	10,272	5,782	
1886	7,170	11,879	4,709	
1887	8,762	12,733	3,971	
1888	10,117	12,213	2,096	
1889	10,248	11,683	1,435	
1890	11,831	12,268	437	
1891	12,580	13,616	1,036	
1892	13,629	14,233	604	
1893	11,600	11,268	—	332
1894	18,066	16,232	—	1,834
1895	21,157	17,010	—	4,147
1896	23,705	18,883	—	4,822

* No record of Assets and Liabilities before 1877. Prior to 1886 the arrears due to Pensioners, on the 31st of December each year, were omitted from the Liabilities.

APPENDIX E.

SAVINGS BANK.

Year.	No. of Depositors.	Due to Depositors 31st December.	Interest due for the year.
		£	£
1866	25	100	3
1867	47	254	7
1868	54	777	12
1869	68	1,270	30
1870	57	740	37
1871	42	737	28
1872	54	1,130	31
1873	62	1,374	37
1874	69	2,025	46
1875	76	2,319	54
10th Year. 1876	66	2,199	55
1877	66	3,480	75
1878	71	3,878	93
1879	75	4,005	68
1880	77	3,657	63
1881	68	4,032	65
1882	80	3,529	70
1883	80	3,519	74
1884	83	3,928	70
1885	72	4,153	74
20th Year. 1886	84	5,518	93
1887	84	5,862	142
1888	91	7,908	*158
1889	94	8,256	195
1890	112	10,608	215
1891	112	10,371	246
1892	108	12,144	274
1893	121	9,996	271
1894	145	13,615	303
1895	164	15,016	350
30th Year. 1896	180	16,409	388

* Bank safe stolen 1888.

ST. HELENA. 1896.

SHIPPING REPORT FOR 1896.

St. Helena,
5th February, 1897.

SIR,

I have the honour to submit the shipping statistics for 1896, which I regret to say shews, as compared with 1895, a decrease of 52 vessels or in tonnage 58,860 tons.

The American Whalers having ceased to make the Island their head quarters, fewer coolie ships and the increase of steamers, must account, in a measure, for the falling off in the shipping, but in my opinion the continued absence of a cable renders St. Helena almost valueless as a port of call for merchant vessels and war ships.

I have, &c.,

W. HEWETSON,
Commander R.N.
Harbour Master, &c.

To His Excellency,
W. Grey-Wilson, C.M.G.,
Governor of St. Helena.

METEOROLOGY, 1896.

Rainfall.

Hitherto the record of rainfall has only been registered in the Central, Eastern and Western Districts of the Island, but in the beginning of the year the Meteorological Council in England were generous enough to supply the instruments, and the record was started in the Northern and Southern Districts on the 1st February.

Notwithstanding the record was only taken for 11 months at the Southern Station, it exceeded the total for the whole year at the Central Station (the next wettest locality) by nearly half an inch, as will be seen from the following :—

		Inches.	
St. Matthew's Vicarage	(Central)	40·509—8¼	more than 1895.
Longwood	(East)	27·47—6½	" " "
Woodlands	(West)	25·38—1½	" " "
Mount Pleasant	(South)	40·98	11 months.
James Town	(North)	6·38	

The greatest daily record 1·41 inches was recorded at the Central Station on the 26th March.

The fall during the month of December was unusually heavy, being no less than 150 per cent. in excess of the average for the last 10 years.

Barometer.

The absolute range of the Barometer at St. Matthew's Vicarage was only 0·270 inches, the maximum 28·296 inches was attained on the 18th July, and the minimum 28·026 inches on the 15th January and 12th March.

The mean for the year at the same Station, at 9 a.m. was 28·137 inches.

Temperature.

The mean temperature at 9 a.m. at the Central Station was 61·5°, and the absolute maximum and minimum at the same Station was 77·6° and 50·2° on the 2nd March and 10th September, respectively.

No record was kept at Woodlands during the year, where the absolute readings are generally registered.

Wind.

The results from the Anemograph were similar to the preceding year, and on the whole a more continued record was secured.

The greatest daily force at 9 a.m. at St. Matthew's Vicarage was 6, corresponding to a pressure of 5·75 lbs. on the square foot, and the mean for the year equalled on the average a pressure of 1·6 lbs. on the square foot.

The daily variation was principally between the South and South South East, 47 per cent. being recorded from the former and 36 per cent. from the latter, with 13·2 per cent. from other quarters, and 3·8 per cent. of calm days.

H. S. HANDS.

COLONIAL REPORTS—ANNUAL.

No. 240.

ST. HELENA.

ANNUAL REPORT FOR 1897.

(For Report for 1896, *see* No. 213.)

Presented to both Houses of Parliament by Command of Her Majesty.
September, 1898.

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COLONIAL REPORTS.

The following, among other, reports relating to Her Majesty's Colonial Possessions have been issued, and may be obtained for a few pence from the sources indicated on the title page :—

ANNUAL.

No.	Colony.	Year.
209	Grenada	1896
210	Hong Kong	"
211	St. Lucia	"
212	St. Vincent	"
213	St. Helena	"
214	Seychelles	"
215	Mauritius	"
216	Cocos-Keeling and Christmas Islands ...	1897
217	Fiji	1896
218	Ceylon	"
219	Lagos	"
220	Gold Coast	"
221	Labuan	"
222	British Guiana	1896–97
223	Rodrigues	1896
224	Basutoland	1896–97
225	Jamaica	"
226	Bechuanaland Protectorate	"
227	Leeward Islands	1896
228	Bermuda	1897
229	Gambia	"
230	Turks and Caicos Islands	"
231	Barbados	"
232	Lagos	"
233	St. Vincent	"
234	Sierra Leone	"
235	Falkland Islands	"
236	Straits Settlements	"
237	British New Guinea	1896–97
238	Bahamas...	1897
239	St. Lucia	"

MISCELLANEOUS.

No.	Colony.	Subject.
1	Gold Coast...	Economic Agriculture.
2	Zululand	Forests.
3	Sierra Leone	Geology and Botany.
4	Canada	Emigration.
5	Bahamas	Sisal Industry.
6	Hong Kong	Bubonic Plague.
7	Newfoundland	Mineral Resources.
8	Western Pacific	Solomon Islands.
9	Dominica	Agriculture.
10	Virgin Islands	Condition during 1897.
11	Grenada	Agriculture in Carriacou.

No. 240.

ST. HELENA.

(For Report for 1896, *see* No. 213.)

GOVERNOR R. A. STERNDALE to MR. CHAMBERLAIN.

The Castle,
St. Helena,
9th August, 1898.

SIR,

I HAVE the honour to forward the Blue Book of this Colony for 1897.

Mr. W. Grey-Wilson, C.M.G., administered the Government up to the 24th May, when he left on being appointed to the Governorship of the Falkland Islands, and the Honourable Major E. H. Peacock, Commanding the Troops, took charge of the Island till my arrival, when I assumed the Government on the 7th June.

The condition of the Colony has been on the whole flourishing. The seasons have been fairly good with ample rainfall, and the large increase to the garrison and employment of labour in the Public Works have conduced to the general prosperity.

Her Majesty's Diamond Jubilee was celebrated in the Island with a heartiness that was to be expected from the known loyalty of the St. Helenians. Further allusions to this will be made under the head of "Social" in the Report.

At first sight the financial statement might appear unsatisfactory, but on analysis it will be seen that the actual normal expenditure is somewhat under the income, and much has been done for the improvement of the Island.

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The difficulties in establishing any profitable industry have not yet been overcome, but the matter has still my earnest endeavours, and negotiations are still pending regarding fibre, fish, and minor undertakings.

FINANCIAL.

Revenue and Expenditure.

The Revenue of the year was £8,802 13*s.* 11*d.*, and the Expenditure was £13,004 5*s.* 11*d.*, showing an excess of payments over receipts of £4,201 12*s.* 0*d.*, but this is not an accurate statement of the financial position, for the Revenue was normal, whereas £4,395 of the Expenditure was for Extraordinary Works such as the new water works, advances for timber from America, &c. The amount of actual ordinary Expenditure stands at £8,608 which is under the Revenue, and the Revenue itself is somewhat lower than in past years owing to a falling off in the Postal receipts on account of sale of stamps. I anticipate an increase of Customs Revenue with the strengthening of the garrison which has taken place.

Assets and Liabilities.

The Assets are £21,821 6*s.* 2*d.* and Liabilities £20,818 13*s.* 3*d.*, showing a credit balance of £1,002 12*s.* 11*d.*

The Parliamentary Grant of 1871-2 of £5,758 is not included in the Liabilities.

TRADE AND SHIPPING.

The Export trade of the Island is practically nil, being confined to a small business in potatoes, which during the year amounted to about 1,117 bags, value £679, the best year since 1894. To the United Kingdom the Exports, exclusive of £3,666 in specie, were of the value of £648, consisting of skins and wool.

The Imports during 1897 amounted to £34,365 being £3,415 more than the previous year. Judging from the appearance of the shops and the increase of the garrison, and also from the fact that home remittances by shopkeepers by means of Treasury Bills were greatly in excess of the previous year, *viz.*, £18,178 against £12,755, I am justified in assuming that trade has been brisk.

Shipping.

There has been a slight increase of 11 in the number of ships that have called and traded. The number of those which anchored was 147. Those which hove to and traded with the licensed traders, 174.

The following ships of Her Majesty's Navy visited the Island during the year :—

8th April	H.M.S. "Philomel."
9th „	H.M.S. "Widgeon."
29th „	H.M.S. "Philomel."
12th May	Transport "Dunera."
26th „	H.M.S. "Widgeon."
29th June	Transport "Dilwara."
18th October	H.M.S. "Widgeon."
1st December	Transport "Avoca."

AGRICULTURE.

The year has on the whole been a prosperous one, with abundance of rain. The hay crop was fair, and the potatoes plentiful and comparatively free from blight. I obtained from Las Palmas, through the liberality of Mr. T. Millar, junior, of that place, some sacks of seed potatoes of the Palmera variety and they have succeeded very well. This variety is a most prolific cropper. I had sent some during the previous year to the Island but they were over-carried to the Cape and were in a bad condition when returned, so the experiment proved a failure, but the second attempt was very successful, and from those grown at Plantation I have now a quantity of seed tubers for distribution.

The advent of the West India Troops has created a demand for yams, not the St. Helena yam, which is an arum, but what is here called the Coast yam (*Dioscorea alata*), a creeper with very large tuber which used to be grown here formerly for sale to the coolie ships. As the number of these vessels has fallen off the cultivation was dropped, and now I have had to import seed tubers from Sierra Leone to be distributed to farmers at cost price.

The Tagasaste (*Cytisus proliferus albus*) from the Canary Islands, which I introduced in 1896, has succeeded in some parts of the Island, but the bushes are as yet too small to cut for fodder; it was very highly spoken of by Dr. Morris, C.M.G., of Kew, and also by some Spanish Naval Officers who visited St. Helena, but I notice that Professor Wallace in his "Farming Industries of Cape Colony" states that it is hurtful to horses.

I found on my arrival that the Agricultural Society was flagging and had not had a meeting since my departure from the Island in July 1896, but it is now reviving and is of great use in discussing matters relating to farming.

The question of manures is now a subject of discussion. The guano deposits of the Island are nearly, if not quite, worked out. On Mr. Deason's farm the native carbonate of lime is used, but a cheap and effective manure has yet to be invented, as the high

ST. HELENA, 1897.

rates of freight preclude the importation of chemical preparations from England. Fish manure, which is so much used in Europe, would be the cheapest and best for this Island, but until a fishery on scientific methods is started the wealth of food and fertilizing matter will still, as heretofore, remain in the depths of the sea which surrounds us.

Small growers are, I think, turning their attention more to market gardening, as the West Indian portion of the increased garrison consume more vegetables.

INDUSTRIES.

I regret to say no progress has been made in the establishment of a fishery, which is a subject I have had at heart for some years, but I do not despair of something in this direction being yet accomplished, if not on a large scale for export, still on a smaller footing for home consumption. It is now becoming a matter for serious consideration what we are to do in the future for supplying fish for the poorer inhabitants who hitherto lived upon the economical food provided by the waters round their Island. Since the arrival of the West India Troops the demand for fish has been great and prices have doubled. Mackerel which used to sell from 2*d*. to 6*d*. a dozen are now a penny a piece, and an equal rise has taken place as regards albicore. The fishermen do not see the force of working longer hours to keep the price of fish down; it is to their advantage to have short hours and high prices.

The scientific European mode of fishing has been so successful at the Cape and Natal that I hope to see it tried here some day, providing cheap food for the poor, manure for the farmers, and an export trade of salt fish to South America. I have suggested to the Officer Commanding the Troops that we should revive the old custom of the past century and have one or two regimental fishing boats; if this were done, and a sufficient supply for the garrison obtained, prices would once more come down to their former level. He is quite willing to try the experiment, but at present the getting of a suitable boat is the difficulty.

A concession was granted during the year to a syndicate of four gentlemen who were disposed to try the preparation of fibre from the Furcræa aloe; I however recommended them to send one of their number to visit the plantations and factories in Natal and Mauritius before commencing operations here; this was done and Mr. J. Brown of Las Palmas, who was the member despatched, was favourably inclined to the scheme and stated that he would visit this Island after making enquiries as to machinery &c., but nothing more has been done as yet.

One of the ladies here, Mrs. Jackson, has been trying to start a lace-making industry (similar to that which has been so

successful in Madagascar) with a view to giving employment to the women and girls of the place, a very laudable project, and I hope to be able to state in my next annual report that she has been successful in her endeavours. There are so many idle women and children in the Island whose husbands and fathers are absent in South Africa that a movement of this kind is highly desirable. Emigration has brought about this state of affairs and, though it relieved the Island a few years ago, the evil effects which I anticipated are now felt, for labour is scarce and wages have risen. I am now paying labourers on the Public Works 2*s*. 6*d*. a day instead of 2*s*., and have had twice to assist Messrs. Solomon & Co., Admiralty Coal Contractors, with men to coal men-of-war on emergency. This pressure, however, may be but temporary as we are laying down new water works, building houses, and the Royal Engineers are preparing new barracks for the increased garrison.

PUBLIC WORKS.

During the early part of the year the following Extraordinary Works were completed at a cost of £700, *viz*., the construction of a flushing dam at the head of the town for the purpose of cleansing the Run, which is an open sewer passing down the whole length of the town to the sea; this excellent work, designed and carried out by Mr. Grey-Wilson, is of the highest value, especially now that we have so many troops quartered in Jamestown. The flushing used to take place about every other day, but finding it capable of daily use the water is now discharged every morning at 6 o'clock. It was practically a finished work before my arrival; all I have done to it is to replace clay puddling on one side of the basin, which was leaking, by concrete, which the estimate allowed.

A new crane had been erected on the wharf which comes into the works of the year, but as yet it has not been used on account of the proximity of partially submerged rocks which prevent the approach of boats; these required very careful removal and, acting under the advice of Captain D. B. Thomson of the 28th Bombay Pioneers (who was here on a visit); I indented on the Crown Agents for 50lbs. of dynamite in commercial cartridges, and on arrival the work of chipping them to pieces by small charges was commenced but was stopped as the roller season set in early. It is now in hand.

A sum of £2,400 having been sanctioned for the new scheme of water works arranged for by Mr. Grey-Wilson, an accurate survey of the line, with working plans and sections, was made for me by Captain Thomson, the Royal Engineer Officers on the Island being fully occupied on the new barracks for the troops. Between Jamestown and the intake at Drummer's Point, a distance of 1,700 yards, there was a considerable amount of earth-work and masonry which I think had not sufficiently been taken

into consideration in estimating the cost; however, I anticipate that the work will contrast favourably with similar operations elsewhere as the cost of supervision is small, though that of labour has risen, and I expect it to be completed by the end of the current year if indents from home are promptly complied with.

The estimated quantity of 6-inch pipes was landed *ex* "Luke Bruce" on the 27th February and the work of laying was taken in hand.

The ordinary Public Works comprised extensive repairs to the Gaol almost amounting to rebuilding; the roof and wood work had entirely to be renewed, the former being white ant eaten to such an extent that it is a wonder it had not collapsed.

A store house for mineral oil was also completed on the Wharf during the year, and the future warehousing of such oils in Jamestown was prohibited.

During the year we imported a very fine lot of American red cypress wood which is the best timber for resisting the white ant. Our consignment of 152,695ft. was shipped by Messrs. Lucas E. Moore & Co., of New Orleans, and is of exceptionally fine quality both in grain and size.

VITAL STATISTICS AND HOSPITAL.

The health of the Island continued good, the death rate was only 11·29 per 1,000, whereas the birth rate was 32·07 per 1,000. The death of the Officer Commanding the Troops, Major E. H. Peacock of the Leicestershire Regiment, occurred on the 16th of July and cast a great gloom over the Island, as he was deservedly popular. The population at the end of the year was estimated to be about 3,897.

EDUCATION.

The total number of children taught in the four Government Schools, the two Benevolent Society's, three Hussey Charity's, the Military, and the Baptist's Sunday Schools was 764, an increase of 14 over the previous year. Much yet remains to be done in this direction as many of the children in outlying parts are somewhat neglected, but when the new Education Ordinance becomes law the rules regarding compulsory education will be more stringently carried out.

CRIME AND GAOL.

There has been very little crime during the year under report and less than the previous year under all heads; for instance, the total number of offences reported to the police was 101 against 171 in the previous year; only two cases were committed to the

Supreme Court. The Gaol was almost empty during the year, which allowed of extensive repairs, almost amounting to rebuilding, being carried out; the daily average in prison was 1·3.

LEGISLATION.

There were no Ordinances of any importance passed during the year, and the only Government regulations calling for notice were, making it compulsory to stow mineral oil on the Wharf outside of Jamestown; and a Proclamation prohibiting the landing of cattle from South Africa on account of the prevalence of Rinderpest there.

SOCIAL.

The great function of the year was, of course, Her Majesty's Diamond Jubilee, which was enthusiastically celebrated on the day. There was a parade of the troops in the garrison, when sixty guns were fired with a *feu de joie* between each twenty guns. All the Masonic and other institutions were present with their insignia and banners, and the day passed with sports, and in the evening fireworks, and a Ball given by myself at the Castle. Mr. W. A. Thorpe broached several hogsheads of ale at his own expense for all comers to drink Her Majesty's health, and a few days after about 2,000 of the poorer classes were entertained at tea on Francis Plain. The permanent memorials of the occasion were a fountain in the Public Gardens given by myself, and the surplus funds in the hands of the Jubilee committee were devoted to the purchase of two ambulances for carrying sick people to Hospital which have proved to be of great comfort and utility. An illuminated address was also forwarded to Her Majesty and graciously acknowledged by Her.

SCIENTIFIC AND METEOROLOGICAL.

In connection with the Public Gardens a Museum has been started, there being a suitable building available in the grounds, and I hope in time to have a complete collection of all the fish, marine mollusca, &c., as also mineralogical and botanical specimens. At present for want of funds we can move but very slowly. My own duties are so numerous that I cannot give the time and attention I should like, but I have given lessons in taxidermy to some of the islanders, and specimens are being collected by degrees. Captain D. B. Thomson, during his six months stay in the Island, collected a valuable series of the indigenous ferns, which are now arranged in glass cases. Specimens of the Island flora are being arranged, and several consignments of living plants have been forwarded to Kew. There has been a serious botanical loss to the Island in the destruction by a storm of the only existing tree of the *Psiadia rotundifolia*, a now extinct species. This tree which grew in the

middle of a field at Longwood was carefully fenced in by Mr. Deason, and many attempts have been made to propagate it by seeds, cuttings, grafting on allied stocks, &c., but all in vain, and it is now, with the valuable ebony tree, *Melhania melanoxylon*, a thing of the past in the indigenous flora of the Island. A very curious fan-leaved palm with six massive branches radiating from the main stem at about six feet from the ground, which grew close to the house at Plantation, was also blown down and destroyed by high winds. The branches, which were about nine inches in diameter, were cut off by me and planted in various situations; I never expected any good results from the operation, but after some months two of them, planted in moist ground, have thrown out young leaves, after having apparently dried up.

The meteorological phenomena of the year have been quite abnormal. It is rarely that thunder and lightning occur, and hail is quite unknown, but on the 21st of October, at 9 p.m., lightning was observed with rumbling of thunder throughout the night; on the following day the thunder between 11 a.m. and 8 p.m. was continuous, one very loud peal frightened my horses as I was driving down Ladder Hill at 11 o'clock, about the same time heavy showers of hail fell in the neighbourhood of Woodlands; towards midnight of the 22nd the wind increased from 1½ lbs. pressure to the square foot to 8 lbs., which continued till midnight of the 23rd, and with the high wind the storm passed away.

I have, &c.,

R. A. Sterndale,

Governor.

The Right Honourable J. Chamberlain, M.P.,

Secretary of State for the Colonies.

COLONIAL REPORTS—ANNUAL.

No. 265.

ST. HELENA.

REPORT FOR 1898.

(For Report for 1897, *see* No. 240.)

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COLONIAL REPORTS.

The following, among other, reports relating to Her Majesty's Colonial Possessions have been issued, and may be obtained for a few pence from the sources indicated on the title page :—

ANNUAL.

No.	Colony.	Year.
236	Straits Settlements	1897
237	British New Guinea	1896–97
238	Bahamas...	1897
239	St. Lucia	,,
240	St. Helena	,,
241	Trinidad and Tobago	,,
242	British Honduras	,,
243	Malta	,,
244	Fiji	,,
245	Hong Kong	,,
246	Leeward Islands	,,
247	Grenada	,,
248	Gibraltar...	,,
249	Gold Coast	,,
250	Mauritius and Rodrigues	,,
251	British Solomon Islands	1897–98
252	Seychelles	1897
253	Labuan	,,
254	Ceylon	,,
255	Basutoland	1897–98
256	Newfoundland	1896–97
257	Cocos Keeling and Christmas Islands ...	1898
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260	Niger.—West African Frontier Force ...	1897–98
261	Jamaica	,,
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263	Falkland Islands	,,
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MISCELLANEOUS.

No.	Colony.	Subject.
1	Gold Coast...	Economic Agriculture.
2	Zululand	Forests.
3	Sierra Leone	Geology and Botany
4	Canada	Emigration.
5	Bahamas	Sisal Industry.
6	Hong Kong	Bubonic Plague.
7	Newfoundland	Mineral Resources.
8	Western Pacific	Solomon Islands.
9	Dominica	Agriculture
10	Virgin Islands	Condition during 1897.
11	Grenada	Agriculture in Carriacou.

No. 265.

ST. HELENA.

(For Report for 1897, *see* No. 240.)

GOVERNOR STERNDALE to MR. CHAMBERLAIN.

The Castle,

St. Helena,

19th May 1899.

SIR,

I HAVE the honour to transmit herewith the Blue Book of this Colony for 1898. It is rather longer than previous reports, having been written on the lines laid down in your circular dated 31st January 1899.

I am glad to be able to report that there has been considerable improvement in the condition of the Colony, owing to the increase of the garrison and the extensive works now being carried on by the Colonial and Imperial Governments, which have given employment to the inhabitants to such an extent that boys are being paid full labourers' wages and even women and children help.

More money has circulated and consequently trade has been brisk.

Probably some reaction may take place several years hence when the works are finished and wages fall, but it is to be hoped that permanent benefit will accrue to the more thrifty ones of the working population.

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The seasons have also been favourable to agriculture, and though the supply of live stock has fallen short of the demand for meat for the troops, so as to compel the military authorities to import cattle for a while, I notice a fair number of young beasts coming on for future requirements.

FINANCIAL.

General Revenue and Expenditure.

The revenue for the year was £9,152 12*s.* 1*d.*, showing an increase over the previous year of £350. The expenditure was £12,349 3*s.* 1*d.*, being £655 less than in 1897. Still the expenditure was £3,196 11*s.* 0*d.* over receipts. This expenditure was, however, extraordinary and not likely to occur again.

Additional grants were sanctioned during the year for rebuilding two houses, for the formation of a volunteer corps, and for the importation of a fine Spanish donkey for stud purposes. The first instalment of £500 was also made towards the liquidation of an advance of £5,158 made to the Colony by the Imperial Government in 1871–72, and an increase in the salaries of several of the inadequately paid officials was also sanctioned during the year. All these items raised the expenditure above the estimate.

I anticipate, however, a decided improvement in the current year, with a substantial surplus.

The Customs revenue and sale of stamps are rising, and expenditure, I trust, will be kept strictly within the sanctioned limits. I give the total Revenue and Expenditure for the past five years :—

Year.	Revenue.	Expenditure.
	£	£
1894	9,161	7,873
1895	9,762	8,063
1896	9,160	8,872
1897	8,803	13,004
1898	9,152	12,349

Assets and Liabilities.

The liabilities exceed the assets this year by £2,486 15*s.* 5*d.* In 1897 we had a surplus (after deducting a transfer of £1,120 19*s.* 6*d.* to the Savings Bank fund) of £4,460, but the following extraordinary expenditure to 31st December 1898 more than swallowed up the amount, viz. :—

	£
Waterworks	2,272
Timber and oil	2,037
Spring water	286
Two new houses	726
Sharpshooters	260
Purchase of "Maldivia"	391
Stallion donkey	67
First instalment Imperial Government loan	500
Total ...	£6,539

Public Debt.

There is no public debt, but a Parliamentary grant of £5,158 made without interest in 1871–72, is now being paid off by instalments of £500 a year.

Currency.

The same as in the United Kingdom.

Comparative Statement of Revenue and Expenditure of Poor Relief Board for last Five Years.

Year.	Revenue.	Expenditure.
	£	£
1894	958	939
1895	930	919
1896	851	863
1897	826	820
1898	863	850

Public Market Committee.

Year.	Revenue.	Expenditure.
	£	£
1894	90	89
1895	89	93
1896	83	82
1897	112	110
1898	107	109

Debts of Municipal Boards.

In 1883 the Poor Relief Board borrowed from the Colonial Government the sum of £800 for the construction of a new poor house and lunatic asylum, to be repaid in 16 annual instalments; the last instalment was paid on 31st December 1898.

TRADE, AGRICULTURE, AND INDUSTRIES.

Imports and Exports.

The imports greatly increased during the year under report, being to the value of £62,985, or nearly double those of the preceding year. The increase of the garrison and the extensive works in fortifications and barracks now in progress have given a great impetus to trade.

The imports consist principally of building material, beer and spirits, general goods, and food-stuffs (the latter chiefly from the Colonies), sugar, rice, &c., live stock for the use of the troops, the Island supply of cattle being insufficient.

The most notable increase occurs under the headings: oxen, cement, drapery and dry goods, grain, leather, boots, &c., preserved meats, oilman's stores, wines, and sundries. As there is much competition in cheap goods, I notice that German manufactures are creeping in, as yet, I think, only in fancy articles, but some foreign glass imported seemed to me to be of as good quality as what we have in store of English manufacture, though about half the price.

The exports continue very low, even lower than in the previous year, and amounted to only £4,391, including £3,816 in specie. These exports consist chiefly of potatoes.

I give the details of imports and exports for the past five years :—

Imports.

Year.	United Kingdom.	Colonies.	Elsewhere.	Total.
	£	£	£	£
1894 ...	18,994	7,988	4,795	31,777
1895 ...	22,263	8,478	3,003	33,744
1896 ...	21,233	9,587	130	30,950
1897 ...	25,262	7,161	1,942	34,365
1898 ...	50,744	12,241	—	62,985

Exports.

Year.	United Kingdom.	Colonies.	Total.
	£	£	£
*1894 ...	4,280	772	5,052
*1895 ...	4,205	109	4,314
*1896 ...	4,012	727	4,739
*1897 ...	4,314	679	4,993
*1898 ...	3,816	575	4,391

£

* Including specie 3,875 in 1894.
„ „ 3,980 „ 1895.
„ „ 3,993 „ 1896.
„ „ 6,663 „ 1897.
„ „ 3,746 „ 1898.

ST. HELENA, 1898.

MINES, MANUFACTORIES, AND FISHERIES.

There are no mines of any description. The Island is devoid of metallic deposits of any consequence. The manganese ores which are obtainable are not of sufficient quality to pay for export, the percentage of manganese dioxide being only 63·19 (worth 52*s.* 6*d.* per ton delivered), which is lower than what manufacturers of chlorine would purchase.

Limestone is found of excellent quality for building purposes, but it has not been made much use of, for, what with the cost of fuel for burning and the difficulties of carriage, it has been found cheaper to import lime from England. I, however, intend to try some experiments in this direction, for the quality of the lime is so good that when some years ago the commander of one of Her Majesty's ships of war was allowed to open fire on an old wall built in the 17th century he made very little impression on it.

I am more sanguine, however, about an industry which is much needed in this Island, that is, coarse pottery-bricks, tiles, and pots of various kinds. There is a dark blue tenacious clay which has hitherto been only used for puddling in engineering works, but which I first used for road metalling, after being burnt. I then tried to make flower pots, but the first attempts cracked in firing, though well burnt and of good colour. I have now succeeded, by using an addition of fine sand in the clay, and am about to build a proper kiln for baking a number of pots at a time.

I am glad to be able to report progress in the manufacture of lace, to which I alluded last year, and great credit is due to Mrs. Jackson and Mrs. Arthur for their energy under extreme difficulties. Mrs. Jackson, struck with the beauty of the Madagascar lace which had been started by the wife of an English Missionary, conceived the idea of a similar industry in St. Helena; she was ignorant of the method of working, but obtained a lace pillow and bobbins from an old worker in Buckingham—I will quote Mrs. Jackson's own words—"Even then without instructions the lace-making was at a standstill—I tried vainly to interest many in the Island until I mentioned the matter to Mrs. Arthur, who took a great interest in my scheme and readily entered into work to discover the different stitches of lace; we toiled on with varying success until she got a book on Torchon lace making; this unravelled the difficulty, and we were able to set to work almost immediately to teach others." I have on several occasions inspected Mrs. Jackson's class, she and Mrs. Arthur have about 20 girls between them, and the progress made is astonishing; many of the pupils are young children, and they all exhibit great keenness and dexterity in their work.

Fisheries.

I wish I could give a better account of these; want of capital and above all want of energy prevent the Islanders from undertaking what would be their most valuable industry if they would but see it, but old habits die hard in St. Helena, and high wages on the military works have tempted many fishermen from their former avocation; recently fish was only to be had in the markets at double and treble the price it commanded formerly, and the supply even at these prices was limited; there is an abundance of fish in the sea, sportsmen go out and in a few hours return with large catches of albicore and cavally, and, with systematic fishing and fish curing a very profitable industry might be maintained. I have for some years gone into the subject, and I know that salted cavally (*Caranx dentex*) commands a ready sale in South America, where under the name of the Cape Verde cod (*Bacalhae de Cabo Verde*) it is preferred to the Canadian cod. But, apart from the export trade, I have been urging the people here to cure fish for home consumption. The West Indian soldiers are great consumers of salt fish, and their canteen has to import it at a rate of about 3½*d.* a pound; the Island-cured cavally could be sold at a good profit at 2*d.* a pound, as large quantities could be taken during the season. Trammel nets have been tried with some success. Commander Gurney, R.N., of H.M.S. "Widgeon," used one daily in the harbour, catching enough fish to supply his crew. Mr. Robert Bruce of the Colonial Secretariat got a net out from England, and in his first experiment he caught about forty fish, including one hammer-headed shark, which I think spoiled sport and somewhat damaged his net. These experiments are, however, a move in the right direction, and the day may come when more extensive operations with nets will be carried out with success.

Agricultural Industries and Botanical Stations.

The year under report has been favourable for agriculture, and owing to abundance of rain the pasturage has been good, but the local stock owners have not been able to keep pace with the increased demand owing to the strengthening of the garrison, and the military authorities have had to import cattle from England. The ravages of rinderpest in South Africa prevented our getting any from the Cape.

It is too early yet to report on the results of the proposed Botanical Garden at Maldivia. The old Botanical Garden, which is to be made over to the War Office for barrack extension, has been worn out from neglect.

Nurseries of young trees are kept up at Plantation and the plants distributed to applicants. The Cinchona plantation, which was started in Sir Charles Elliott's time on the range below Diana's Peak, is still to be traced; the trees have run wild and thrive, but the cultivation here would not be profitable at the ruling prices for quinine.

Forestry.

This requires encouragement amongst the landowners. Mr. Grey-Wilson did much good in this way, and ample testimony exists of his efforts in the many fine young trees that are growing up in the vicinity of Plantation, especially with various kinds of cedar and eucalyptus. I have for some time tried to redeem the barrenness of Halftree Hollow, through which the main road from Jamestown to the south runs, but the rock is too near the surface for most trees, and some hundreds of young Cape yews planted have, with few exceptions, withered away. Some olives planted by me in 1896 survive, but the most hopeful species is a kind of evergreen of the fig tribe which in Jamestown grows to an enormous size. One tree of this on Halftree Hollow, planted by me in 1896, is now in a most flourishing condition, and I am about to make an avenue of the same.

LAND GRANTS AND GENERAL VALUE OF LAND.

There have been no grants of land made during the year under report. All the best land in the Island is in private hands or leased by Government. The value is reckoned about £5 an acre for commutation purposes.

SHIPPING.

The number of ships that anchored was 147, exactly the same as in the previous year. Those that hove to and traded with licensed boatmen numbered 192; vessels sighted, 390.

	Tonnage.
Men-of-war	40,926
Steamers	104,737
Sailing vessels	120,467
Total tonnage ...	266,130

The following nationalities were represented:—

American	7
Belgian	1
British	101
Dutch	2
French	4
German	6
Hawaiian	1
Italian	4
Norwegian	17
Russian	1
Spanish	1
Swedish	2

The statistics for the last five years are:—

	Tons.
1894	280,634
1895	279,717
1896	220,857
1897	228,569
1898	266,130

The whalers have for the past two years entirely deserted this port, which is a matter of regret, for they used to spend much money in the Island. It is probable that the sperm whale fishery is not so profitable as it was, and that the ships employed in this industry have gone further north in search of the right or whale-bone whale.

LEGISLATION.

Only two Ordinances of special interest were passed during the year, viz.:—

No. 1, of 14th February 1898, "An Ordinance to empower the Governor in Council to fix the rates of postage."

No. 3, of 15th June 1898, "An Ordinance to provide for the management of the lunatic asylum."

Nos. 2, 4, and 5 were to provide for service and supplementary expenditure.

ST. HELENA, 1898.

EDUCATION.

There are four Government schools, four charitable, a military, and a Baptist Sunday School, the total number of scholars being 790, an increase of 26 over last year. In none of them can more than a good plain English education be imparted, and a good high-class school is much wanted. There are no technical schools as yet. In the town school of the Hussey Charity there is a carpenters' class, and the gardener at Government House Plantation has a class of [illegible] learning horticulture.

GOVERNMENT AND OTHER INSTITUTIONS.

Hospitals.

The civil hospital is supported by the Government, aided by fees from paying patients. The hospital is clean, commodious, and airy, well supplied with good water, and admirably managed, under the supervision of the Colonial Surgeon, by a lady superintendent (Miss Williams) and two nurses. 186 cases were treated, with 15 deaths; the greatest number of cases of any particular disease were respiratory organs 29, deaths 5; local injuries 28, deaths 2. No cases of zymotic disease occurred in the hospital, either amongst patients or officers; the daily average treated was 8·84.

Asylums.

The lunatic asylum is not supported by Government but by the ratepayers through the Poor Relief Board. There are only seven patients, of whom three are maniacal, three quiet, and one melancholic. The Colonial Surgeon visited three times a week; but an Ordinance has been passed during the year for the better management and supervision by visitors.

Poor House.

This is also supported and managed by the Poor Relief Board, who levy a rate of about 20*s.* per £100 per annum on all real property in the Island, assessed in the aggregate at about £94,900.

Savings Bank.

This Government institution is very popular, there being no banks in the Island. The number of depositors during the year was 174. The total amount of deposits, £3,000 19*s.*; of withdrawals £2,240 19*s.* The total amount at credit of depositors at the end of the year was £17,003 11*s.* 4*d.*; of invested funds, £15,299 13*s.* 5*d.*

PUBLIC GARDENS AND MUSEUM.

The public gardens, which are situated near the Castle Square and St. James's Church, are being much appreciated by the residents since they have been improved. There yet remains much to be done, and the want of a competent gardener greatly hinders progress, but I hope in a short time to add to the turf which has been established in parts, and to increase the supply of flowers. The three gates are locked at nine o'clock, at which time the reading-room closes, and now, instead of being the haunt of noisy rough lads and persons of doubtful character, it is much resorted to by those who wish to have a quiet time with a book under the trees, the seats near the fountain being generally occupied, and by numbers of children, for whose benefit I wish to increase the lawns.

Three gold fish, presented by Mr. A. Thorpe, were put into the basin of the fountain, and they have bred to such an extent that we have now many for distribution.

Both the Union and Castle Line Companies have kindly consented to bring out free of charge anything that may be required for the gardens and the museum. The latter is progressing favourably, and I have been able to get the assistance of Mr. Henry Thorpe, an enthusiastic student in natural history, to take the post of honorary curator.

Mr. Rowland Ward, of Piccadilly, presented us, the other day, with a collection of stuffed animals, including a fine South American jaguar and seven species of monkey and other valuable specimens, which are being arranged with tropical scenery in a large glass case, and which will not fail to be a source of great attraction to the St. Helenians, whose island fauna is destitute of any of the larger mammalia in a wild state.

There being no Government funds devoted to the support of the undertaking we are mainly dependent on the assistance of friends.

JUDICIAL STATISTICS.

Police.

The police force is a very small one, consisting only of a sergeant, four constables (now raised to five), and one special constable.

Prisons.

There is one goal in Jamestown, not large as gaols go, but quite enough for requirements; it has been thoroughly repaired

ST. HELENA, 1898.

during the year, as the whole of the timber was eaten by white ants; there are three wards into which open eight cells. The sexes are on separate floors. The sanitary arrangements are good, and there has been no sickness or a death during the year. The male prisoners are generally employed on outdoor work under the Colonial Engineer.

Criminal.

There is very little serious crime in the Island; only one case of housebreaking was brought before the Supreme Court. Of minor offences 143 were reported to the police, 136 apprehended or summoned, with 120 summary convictions.

VITAL STATISTICS.

Population.

The population according to the census taken in 1891 was 4,116, and on the 31st December last year was estimated at 4,543. There were 53 immigrants during the year, but 119 emigrants, principally to the Cape.

The births were 24·2 per 1,000; the deaths 18·2 per 1,000, which is much higher than in the previous year which was only 11·29 per 1,000. The year was wet and cold and unfavourable to old people, of whom 45 (or more than one-half the total mortality) died at the following ages:—

Between 50 and 60	10
„ 60 „ 70	13
„ 70 „ 80	12
Over 80	10
Total	45
Children under 10	17
The rest	21
Total deaths	83

Public Health.

On the whole the public health was not so good as in the preceding year; there was a good deal of slight ailment with

dysenteric symptoms, which probably affected young children and old people more seriously; still there was no serious sickness or epidemic of any kind.

Sanitation.

Sanitary arrangements in the country leave much room for improvement, but in Jamestown matters are improving daily. When the new waterworks are opened the sanitary regulations regarding drainage will be more rigorously imposed. A new system of drainage for the town is highly desirable, for the existing drains are a series of patchwork of pipes and culverts of various dimensions which prevent perfect flushing. The great open sewer, called the "Run," which goes through the town has been concreted throughout from the flushing-dam to the sea, and a large volume of water is discharged down it every morning, sweeping it clean.

Climate.

There were no meteorological phenomena to report during the year. The rainfall varies very much in different parts of the Island, the yearly average being:—

Mount Pleasant	36·06	inches.
St. Matthew's Vicarage ...	33·950	„
Woodlands	23·63	„
Jamestown	4·82	„

The prevailing wind is the S.E. trade, which blew steadily E.S.E., S.E., and S.S.E. for 332 days during the year; there were only nine days calm.

The temperature on the highlands varied from a maximum of 76 to a minimum of 46, the mean average being 60. In Jamestown the maximum was 80, the minimum 66.

POSTAL AND TELEPHONE.

Post.

There is no inland post, residents in the country go down to meet the mails or send to the post office for their letters. The sale of stamps to collectors continued to fall off, being only £96 11*s.* 1*d.* as against £253 9*s.* 10*d.* in the previous year, owing to the pattern of the stamps being a common one and not in favour with collectors. I recommended the return of the old pattern from the Crown Agents, and since then the demand has been considerable, £337 worth having been sold during five months of the current year.

ST. HELENA, 1898.

At the close of the year the new penny postage and the improved parcel rates came into force.

Telephone.

There is a system of telephonic communication connecting East, West, and Central points with Jamestown. The lines are constructed and managed by the Royal Engineers. In the first instance the Colony gave a grant of £400 and an annual subsidy which is now reduced to £45, and £30 is granted by Lloyd's. The private messages are few and amounted during the year to only £13 14*s.* 4*d.* The revenue was £109 1*s.* 10*d.*, the expenditure £210. The lines are, however, kept up solely for military and official purposes.

GENERAL OBSERVATIONS.

The chief event of the year was the increase in the garrison by the arrival of the head-quarters of the 3rd West India Regiment, and the commencing of military works which gave employment to all in need of it. Emigration, to which the people in late years have been driven, will, I think, now be checked. I have been always averse to encouraging the steady flow of our able bodied young men to the Cape, foreseeing the difficulties that would arise in time and cripple any future industry or engineering work; we are now suffering from a scarcity of labour, especially skilled labour such as carpenters, blacksmiths, plumbers, &c. Our public works have been sadly hindered by the want of carpenters. Wages have increased and even young lads have been getting the wages of adults. In spite of these difficulties, our Colonial public works (excluding fortifications and barracks executed by the Royal Engineers from Imperial funds) consisted of:—

1. The completion of the laying of the six-inch main of the new waterworks from Drummer's Point to the wharf, a distance of over 2 miles.

2. The completion of the gaol, which required a new roof and new wood-work throughout.

3. The masonry of two new houses on the site of old ones belonging to the Government. These houses are being built to meet the increased demand for accommodation. The example of Government has been followed by one or two other house proprietors, and it is to be hoped that visitors from England may be tempted to come out during the English winter (the St. Helenian summer). This Island, with its salubrious climate, superior in some respects to Madeira and the Canary Islands, would prove a valuable health resort if it were better known. Wages are

moderate and living not more expensive than in England. From its geographical position St. Helena might be supposed to have a tropical climate, and so it would have but for the cool south-east trade wind which blows nearly all the year round. The summer temperature in the country seldom rises above 70° to 75°. Englishmen go about with small caps on their heads, yet sunstroke is extremely rare. There is no doubt it is an excellent climate for Europeans, but there are not many openings for white labour; wages are low according to English ideas, 2*s*. 6*d*. a day for labourers and 5*s*. per diem for a skilled carpenter.

The only openings for the investment of capital are in the preparation of fibre from the furcræa aloe which grows wild in abundance, and fish curing.

Coffee of an excellent quality is produced but the culturable area is limited; still a great deal more could be done in this direction as much land fit for coffee is used for pasturage.

Taking the people as a whole (I speak not of the cultivated, but of the working classes), they are to be favourably compared with the English agricultural population; with few exceptions all can read and write, and the language is spoken with greater purity than in many of our home districts. There is a good deal of overcrowding in many of their cottages; still in most of them there are to be found neatness and a love of art in the way of pictures, and nearly all are musical. Some of the small houses I have visited have been very neatly kept. As a rule I think they are a happy and contented people with little crime among them and much kindness in helping each other. Strangers are greatly impressed with the general civility shown to them by old and young.

I have, &c.,

R. A. STERNDALE,

Governor.

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1899.

COLONIAL REPORTS—ANNUAL.

No. 309.

ST. HELENA.

REPORT FOR 1899.

(For Report for 1898, *see* No. 265.)

Presented to both Houses of Parliament by Command of Her Majesty.
December, 1900.

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COLONIAL REPORTS.

The following, among other, reports relating to Her Majesty's Colonial Possessions have been issued, and may be obtained from the sources indicated on the title page :—

ANNUAL.

No.	Colony.	Year.
287	Straits Settlements	1898
288	Basutoland	1898–99
289	Niger Coast Protectorate	"
290	British Guiana	1897–98 & 1898–99
291	Falkland Islands	1899
292	British New Guinea	1898–99
293	Bermuda...	1899
294	Barbados	"
295	Malta	"
296	Fiji	"
297	Turks and Caicos	"
298	Bahamas	"
299	Sierra Leone	"
300	Gambia	"
301	Seychelles	"
302	Mauritius and Rodrigues	"
303	Trinidad and Tobago	"
304	Straits Settlements	"
305	Gibraltar	"
306	Gold Coast	"
307	Ceylon	"
308	Leeward Islands	"
310	British Honduras	"

MISCELLANEOUS.

No.	Colony.	Subject.
1	Gold Coast...	Economic Agriculture.
2	Zululand	Forests.
3	Sierra Leone	Geology and Botany.
4	Canada	Emigration.
5	Bahamas	Sisal Industry.
6	Hong Kong	Bubonic Plague.
7	Newfoundland	Mineral Resources.
8	Western Pacific	British Solomon Islands.
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10	Virgin Islands	Condition during 1897.
11	Grenada	Agriculture in Carriacou.
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13	Cook Islands	Trade, 1899.
14	Bahamas	Fibre Industry.
15	Canada	Legal Status of British North American Indians.

No. 309.

ST. HELENA.

(For Report for 1898, *see* No. 265.)

GOVERNOR STERNDALE to MR. CHAMBERLAIN.

The Castle,
St. Helena,
14th August, 1900.

SIR,

I have the honour to forward to you the Blue Book of this Colony for the year 1899, together with my report on the same.

The results are, I think, satisfactory. The Revenues are increasing, and the Expenditure though heavy, on account of urgent public works, has been kept within the receipts.

The potato crop, which influences the small export trade, has been very good. Not only was the home consumption increased by the wants of a larger garrison but the amount available for export was greater than in any of the previous four years.

The imports rose from £34,365 in 1897 to £62,985 in 1898, and to £91,699 in the year under report, and in the current year I anticipate a further increase.

The demand for labour is great; wages are good, and amongst the industrious poor there should be no want, and it is a pleasure to record that, although money has been more plentiful and the temptations of the public houses greater, serious crime has been absent, and petty crimes less than in the previous year.

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ST. HELENA, 1899.

The cost of living has, however, greatly increased, and during the present year the prices of food have doubled and quadrupled, so that what used to be considered necessaries of life, such as milk, butter, eggs and meat, are now luxuries, and the principal food of the poor, *i.e.* fish, is both scarce and expensive.

This is owing to the larger garrison and the number of prisoners of war we now have in the Island, and, as regards fish, to the apathy of the fishermen, who prefer daily wages and fixed hours of work to toiling the greater part of the night in boats.

The aspect of the place has also greatly changed; instead of the quiet monotony of past years, Jamestown is a scene of noisy activity, and the perils of our roads are considerably increased by four-in-hand mule waggons driven by reckless Kaffir boys. In an excellent account of St. Helena in 1715 by Captain Daniel Beeckman he quaintly observes: "The Island is so high, hilly and of such difficult ascent that it is a common saying that a man may chuse whether he will break his heart in going up or his neck in coming down," and now we may add to the perils of old an occasional avalanche of mule wagons. I have strongly advocated the substitution of pack mules for the wagons, and these have been applied for.

It is hoped that several works of public utility and necessity will be carried out during the current year, such as the erection of a new crane and a new road to the west end of the wharf, so as to enable the town refuse to be shot into the sea in the run of the westerly current, instead of into the bend of the harbour, as at present, where it constitutes a grave nuisance.

The new water works have been finished as far as the mains are concerned, but the house connections had to be left under the old system, for a time, as all the lead pipe imported for the purpose had to be used up for the Boer camp. However, the mains came in of great use when we had several large transports requiring water, when a greater volume was sent down from Drummer's Point to the wharf than the old pipes could supply. One very important work in connection with the water supply has been carried out. The original town supply consisted of open brook water, collected at Drummers Point and pure spring water from four sources known as "Chubb's Springs"; these were brought down by separate pipes and mixed in a large tank in the Botanical Gardens. I have had a series of concrete tanks built at intervals all down the main street of the town into which the pure spring water runs, and these are used by almost all the residents for their drinking supply.

Special facilities are allowed to manufacturers of soda water to make use of this supply by branch pipes laid on from the main.

I believe that when the new barracks are finished it would pay a small company to erect plant for lighting Ladder Hill and the town by the electric light, worked by windmills. There is always a steady wind from the South East Trades,—only 9 days were calm during the year under report.

Lighting by kerosine oil is not only faulty but expensive, and Jamestown is almost in the dark, the lamps are so poor.

I have, &c.,
R. A. STERNDALE,
Governor.

FINANCIAL.

General Revenue and Expenditure.

Total Revenue and Expenditure for the last Five Years.

Year.	Revenue.	Expenditure.
	£	£
1895	9,762	8,063
1896	9,160	8,872
1897	8,803	13,004
1898	9,152	12,349
1899	11,593	11,421

This year shews an improvement on the last, insomuch as the expenditure was within the revenue, in spite of very heavy public works.

The revenue was £2,441 in excess of the previous year and better than in any of the foregoing five years, and it was £1,103 over the estimate. This result was chiefly owing to wharfage dues and duties on increased imports and to Post Office Receipts.

The expenditure was less than the previous year, but still heavy owing to exceptional works of urgency under the heads of water works, sanitary and Government buildings. The most important work being the completion of the culvert called the "Run" which forms the main drain of the town.

Assets and Liabilities.

The liabilities exceed the assets by £2,634, owing to a sum of £4,068 being overpaid by the Crown Agents on account of the heavy extraordinary expenditure of the past two years. In the current year I expect to liquidate this debt which at present stands at £1,066.

Public Debt.

There is no public debt, but a Parliamentary grant made without interest in 1871–72 is being paid off at the rate of £500 a year when funds are available. At the beginning of the year it stood at £4,658.

Currency.

The estimated amount of coin in circulation in the Island in the year under report was £15,000 or £3,000 more than in 1898. About £9,000 in specie was imported and £3,594 exported.

The only Bank is the Government Savings Bank, which has a total deposit of £18,399.

The deposits during the year amounted to £4,435, the withdrawals to £3,450.

Local remittances are mostly made by bills granted by the Government on the Crown Agents at 1 per cent. The sum of £22,240 was remitted in this way during the year.

Comparative Statement of Revenue and Expenditure of Poor Relief Board for the last Five Years.

Year.	Revenue.	Expenditure.
	£	£
1895	930	919
1896	851	863
1897	826	820
1898	863	850
1899	862	889

Public Market.

Year.	Revenue.	Expenditure.
	£	£
1895	89	93
1896	83	82
1897	112	110
1898	107	109
1899	191	172

The market returns shew a decided advance on former years probably owing to increased importation of cattle for the troops.

TRADE, AGRICULTURE, AND INDUSTRIES.

Imports and Exports.

The imports during the year under report were greatly in excess of the previous year, which again were nearly double those of preceding years, as will be seen by the following tabular statement :—

Imports.

Year.	United Kingdom.	Colonies.	Elsewhere.	Total.
	£	£	£	£
1895 ...	22,263	8,478	3,003	33,744
1896 ...	21,233	9,587	130	30,950
1897 ...	25,262	7,161	1,942	34,365
1898 ...	50,744	12,241	—	62,985
1899 ...	80,232	7,598	3,869	91,699

The above includes £9,000 in specie, and £3,869 value of whale oil transhipped ; the increase is in general goods, beer and spirits, live stock for the use of the troops, and building material for the new barracks, &c.

Exports.

Year.	United Kingdom.	Colonies.	Total.
	£	£	£
1895 ...	4,205	109	4,314
1896 ...	4,012	727	4,739
1897 ...	4,314	679	4,993
1898 ...	3,816	575	4,391
1899 ...	3,849	743	4,592

After deducting £3,594 specie the exports of the year show more favourably than in previous years, being nearly a thousand pounds, viz., £998 against £645 in 1898. £743 worth of potatoes were exported, the largest amount since 1894. Hides and wool to a small amount, viz., £145, were also exported.

MINES, MANUFACTORIES, AND FISHERIES.

No minerals worth working have as yet been discovered. Experiments have been tried successfully to a small extent in making pottery from a dark blue clay, to which I alluded in my last report. Since then I have found a light brown clay which appeared to me suitable for bricks, and I sent samples of both to Messrs. John Whitehead & Co., of the Albert Works, Preston, and I am indebted to them for the following report :—

"Light brown clay is very good for brick making purposes except that it shrinks too much, nearly one-fifth of its bulk—this is fatal to its making sound bricks by itself. This can be remedied by an admixture of *sharp gritty sand*. For this purpose we should recommend river sand if available. Fine grained sand unless *gritty* would not be of much use. We think a mixture of about one part of such sand to six of the clay would keep the bricks sufficiently open to allow the moisture to escape during the drying and burning and prevent excessive shrinkage which is the cause of the cracking. Blue clay—The foregoing remarks apply to this, but we do not think so well of it as the brown."

I alluded in my report last year to the success with the blue clay after an addition of sand, and was under the impression that the blue was the better clay.

It would be a great saving to us to make our own bricks and tiles here instead of importing them. Most of our building is done with stone, but there are certain things which require brick.

The lace industry is still going on under Mrs. Jackson's care, Mrs. Arthur having left for England, and there are many girls engaged in it. Miss Holmes, the daughter of our Bishop, has started a class for wood carving, in which she excels.

It has been arranged to hold an Industrial Exhibition during the current year, probably in November, to encourage as far as possible the people of the Island in Arts and Manufactures, prizes being given for local productions.

Fisheries.

It is hopeless to start an industry in this direction by local agency. With the greatly increased demand for fish it would be reasonable to suppose that more men would engage in the work, but, instead of that, many of the fishermen have been tempted by good wages and fixed hours to engage on the Imperial works. A hard-working fisherman could make three times the Government pay if he kept to his fishing, but I suppose the other is the easier life. When it was found necessary on account of quarantine regulations to stop the trading of licensed boatmen with passing vessels, I concluded that they would take to fishing, but they did not, and the few who have kept to their work are reaping the benefits of greatly increased prices, quite 400 per cent. over those of three years ago.

With the increased garrison and the great number of prisoners of war, a large quantity of fish, which is plentiful enough in the sea, could profitably be disposed of daily were the people energetic enough to catch them. I have always advocated a Fishery Company here worked by English capital and labour, and had such a one been started as projected in 1896–1897 it would have been reaping a golden harvest just now, both in salted and fresh fish.

AGRICULTURAL INDUSTRIES AND BOTANICAL STATIONS.

The year under report has been good on the whole, both as regards crops and stock. The potato crops have been heavy and there has not been much disease. The rats have been, as they generally are in this Island, exceptionally destructive. In a patch of Indian corn I inspected not one cob was saved. Having no enemies, they increase without check save from their own omnivorous propensities, which lead them to devour their own young.

ST. HELENA, 1899.

The old records of St. Helena are full of complaints of the damage done by these pests, who in 1715 devoured the soldiers' pouches even whilst the men who wore them were asleep. In 1768 rewards were offered for their destruction, a half-penny each rat and a farthing for a mouse; again in 1809 sixpence a dozen was paid for rats' heads, to encourage extirpation. There is also a quaint entry in 1732, after some remarks on the damage done by them to the trees in Plantation grounds :—

"We have also heard that in the year 1700 the ratts were grown so exceedingly numerous that after they had destroyed everything else they at last fell upon one another and devoured themselves, and the Island at that time was quite clear of them :"

A consummation most devoutly to be desired at this time.

That the rabbits do not increase in the same degree I attribute to the rats killing and devouring the young ones.

A few Indian Mynas let loose a couple of years ago have multiplied to a great extent, and the farmers tell me they are in constant attendance on the cattle, freeing them from ticks. These birds do a little damage in fruit gardens, but they compensate for this by the number of insects they destroy. The importation of other insectivorous birds has not been attended by much success.

In the Maldivia Botanical Gardens and at Plantation about 225 vine grafts (Black Alicante and Raisin Blanc) on American stocks have been planted out, and, if successful, distribution will be made with a view to re-introducing the grape in St. Helena, where at one time it flourished. A few of the grafts have already been distributed.

Forestry.

I have been recommended to try the *Eucalyptus rostrata* as a hardy tree suitable for the Island, and have arranged for a supply of seed.

The Blue Gum (*Eucalyptus globulus*) grows freely here and attains a very large size, one at Plantation being 16½ feet in circumference at five feet from the ground; but it grows crooked in windy localities.

The Norfolk Island Pine (*Araucaria excelsa*) attains a great height here—over 100 feet in some cases; it seeds freely and seeds and young plants have been distributed. Some of the seeds, with Cape Yews, and Port Jackson Willows (*Acacia longfolia*) have been sent to Ascension.

We saved some seed from the Mahogany trees in the old Botanical Garden and have a few healthy seedlings in hand.

Of th trees planted on Halftree Hollow by the road side the Evergreen Fig is flourishing, also a few of the Cape Yews, Cedars, and Olives planted by me in 1896 and 1898, but the rocky ground is against their growth; still, they look healthy.

LAND GRANTS AND GENERAL VALUE OF LAND.

A piece of land measuring 8a. 0r. 31p. adjoining the military property on Ladder Hill has been assigned to the War Office for extension of quarters, the Colonial Government receiving in exchange the land (with the exception of the Battery) held by the Imperial Government in Lemon Valley.

The old Botanical Garden in Jamestown has also been sold to the Imperial Government, as they adjoin the new barracks. There are some fine old trees (which will be preserved as far as possible), but as a botanical garden it was useless, as the soil is thoroughly worn out, and the new gardens at Maldivia are in every way more suitable for the purpose.

The right of removing all trees of value which could be removed was retained, and some have been transplanted.

SHIPPING.

During the year 138 ships anchored; 142 lay off and traded with boatmen and 356 were sighted; this is a falling off from last year's figures, but then ships from the east were under quarantine on account of plague.

Total tonnage entered at the Custom House :—

	Tons.
British Steam	100,814
„ Sailing	6,054
Foreign „	1,771
Total	108,639

Total tonnage of all vessels boarded :—

	Tons.
British	215,526
Foreign	49,163
Total	264,689

Vessels of war and transports :—

	Tons.
British	38,325
Foreign	7,150
Total	45,475

LEGISLATION.

The following Ordinances were passed during the year under report, viz :—

No. 1 of 18th January, 1899.—"An Ordinance for protection of Telegraph Cables on the land and in the waters of St. Helena."

No. 4 of 4th December, 1899.—"An Ordinance to provide for the recognition in St. Helena of Probates and Letters of Administration granted in the United Kingdom and in British Possessions."

Nos. 2, 3 and 5 were to provide for Service and Supplementary Expenditure.

The following Proclamations were issued :—

24th February, 1899.—Proclamation extending the Game season for the year 1899.

24th February, 1899.—Proclamation regarding the disease known as Oriental or Bubonic Plague.

22nd March, 1899.—Proclamation regarding the importation of horses from South Africa.

23rd September, 1899.—Proclamation regarding the disease known as Oriental or Bubonic Plague.

27th December, 1899.—Proclamation regarding the War with the South African Republic and the Orange Free State.

EDUCATION.

The number of schools has remained the same, viz., four Government schools, five charitable, one military, and a Baptist Sunday school.

The number of scholars being 793, an increase of 3 over last year.

When the proposed Education Ordinance providing for compulsory attendance is passed the number will be greatly increased, for many children who ought to be at school are now

kept away working for wages, the demand for labour being great, and children of 7 or 8 years of age can get work as donkey drivers.

PUBLIC GARDENS AND MUSEUM.

There is not much progress to report under this head; the Jamestown Public Gardens are still appreciated by the residents and are progressing favourably though slowly, as it takes a long time to recover soil which has been thoroughly impoverished.

A large quantity of valuable manure has been stored from the Commissariat Cattle yard, and used from time to time with advantage. Many seeds and plants have been tried with varying success, the utter failures having been discarded in favour of those plants which have done well. A number of Orchids were introduced, but as yet it is doubtful whether they will succeed. One species from Madagascar has flowered soon after its introduction, two years ago, and has sent out a fresh spike of bloom this year. We experience great difficulty in getting grass to grow and keep green. We cannot do much without a competent gardener, whom we lack at present.

The Museum has been thrown back somewhat by our Honorary Curator, Mr. Henry Thorpe, having volunteered for active service in South Africa, and my own time has been too fully occupied for me to be able to do much; still it is a great thing to have a suitable place in which to preserve articles of interest which have hitherto been scattered about. We have still much material to arrange in the room.

JUDICIAL STATISTICS.

The returns shewing the extent of crime in the Island, never very heavy, are less during the year under report than in the previous year, as the following table will show:—

—	1898.	1899.
Number of offences reported to police	143	134
Number of persons apprehended	136	121
Number of summary convictions	120	103
1. For offences against the person	11	20
2. For offences against property other than praedial larceny	8	4
3. For other offences	101	79

ST. HELENA, 1899.

There were no cases committed for trial to the Supreme Court.

The results are far better than I anticipated, for money has been more plentiful among the lower classes and the consumption of spirituous liquors greater.

VITAL STATISTICS.

The population in 1891, according to the census was 4,116. On the 31st December last it was estimated to be 4,270.

The births were 132, or 30·9 per thousand, the deaths were 74, or 17·3 per thousand, the latter included nine soldiers, one soldier's wife and one child of the West India Regiment.

The mortality is mostly amongst the very young and very old, as the following table shews :—

Age.	No.
10 years and under	18
20 " "	2
30 " "	10
40 " "	0
50 " "	6
60 " "	7
70 " "	6
80 " "	15
Above 80	10
Total	74

PUBLIC HEALTH.

The public health was fairly good during the year; there were a few cases of measles imported from the Cape, but, fortunately, the disease did not spread.

CLIMATE.

There was a good deal of rain during the year, more than in the previous year, viz :—

—	1898.	1899.
Mount Pleasant	36.06	49.39
St. Matthew's Hutts Gate	33.950	47.315
Longwood	—	31.37
Woodlands...	23.63	30.12
Jamestown...	4.82	7.34

The prevailing wind is the trade, blowing from S.S.E. and S.E. with slight variations. Northerly winds blew only for three days. Nine days were calm.

POSTAL AND TELEPHONE.

We have not as yet started any inland post offices nor house to house delivery. Residents go down to meet the mails or send to the Post Office for their letters.

Since the old pattern of stamps were returned to the Colony the sale rose from £96 11*s.* 1*d.* of the previous year to £450 11*s.* 11*d.* during the year under report. The total postal revenue rose from £606 2*s.* 7*d.* in 1898 to £1,126 12*s.* 5*d.*

TELEPHONES.

The telephone lines which connect the east, west, and central points of the Island are constructed and managed by the Royal Engineers, and are kept up solely for military and official purposes. The Colonial Government give an annual subsidy of £45 towards upkeep, and £30 per annum is given by Lloyds.

SUBMARINE CABLES.

The Eastern Telegraph Company have now got a station here. The line was first laid from the Cape to St. Helena and connection established on November 24th last; on the 15th

ST. HELENA, 1899.

December of the year under report, the line was extended to Ascension, and then through communication with England, viâ St. Vincent, was established. The charge per word is 4*s*.

GENERAL OBSERVATIONS.

The chief event of the previous year was the increase of the Garrison by the Head Quarters of the 3rd West India Regiment. As there was not sufficient accommodation for them in Jamestown they were removed into camp on Deadwood Plain. It was a question whether so exposed a situation would not be prejudicial to the health of men accustomed to a tropical climate, but though the year was exceptionally wet and windy, the health of the troops remained excellent, better than in Jamestown.

On the 31st October the transport "Avoca" arrived with orders for the Head Quarters with two companies to proceed by the same vessel to Sierra Leone; the news was received at 7 in the morning, and by 5.30 all the troops were on board, which, considering they had not received the slightest warning of the move, was very smart work.

The war between England and the Transvaal and Orange Free State was most keenly felt in St. Helena amongst all classes, for there is hardly a family in the Island that had not some members either in Cape Colony and Natal or in those two States. It is estimated that there are about 2,000 St. Helenians in South Africa. The telegrams were looked for with the greatest anxiety, and there were many volunteers for service among the Sharpshooters, who, however, could not be spared; the Corps was, however, represented by Captain Deason (lately a prisoner in the hands of the Boers), Lieutenant Arthur, and Private H. Thorpe, all of whom have been at the front.

During the current year we have had more intimate acquaintance with the Boers, as General Cronje and a large number of his followers have been interned in the island, and still more are expected shortly.

COLONIAL REPORTS—ANNUAL.

No. 323.

ST. HELENA.

REPORT FOR 1900.

(For Report for 1899, *see* No. 309.)

Presented to both Houses of Parliament by Command of His Majesty.
June, 1901.

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1901.

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COLONIAL REPORTS.

The following, among other, reports relating to His Majesty's Colonial Possessions have been issued, and may be obtained from the sources indicated on the title page :—

ANNUAL.

No.	Colony.	Year.
295	Malta	1899
296	Fiji	„
297	Turks and Caicos Islands	„
298	Bahamas...	„
299	Sierra Leone	„
300	Gambia	„
301	Seychelles	„
302	Mauritius and Rodrigues	„
303	Trinidad and Tobago	„
304	Straits Settlements	„
305	Gibraltar...	„
306	Gold Coast	„
307	Ceylon	„
308	Leeward Islands	„
309	St. Helena	„
310	British Honduras	„
311	St Lucia	1899–1900
312	St. Vincent	1899
313	Basutoland	„
314	Hong Kong	„
315	Southern Nigeria	1899–1900
316	Grenada	1899
317	Jamaica	1899–1900
318	British Guiana	„
319	Christmas Island	1900
320	British Solomon Islands	1899–1900
321	Lagos	1899
322	Bermuda	1900

MISCELLANEOUS.

No.	Colony.	Subject.
1	Gold Coast	Economic Agriculture.
2	Zululand	Forests.
3	Sierra Leone	Geology and Botany.
4	Canada	Emigration.
5	Bahamas	Sisal Industry.
6	Hong Kong	Bubonic Plague.
7	Newfoundland	Mineral Resources.
8	Western Pacific	British Solomon Islands.
9	Dominica	Agriculture.
10	Virgin Islands	Condition during 1897.
11	Grenada	Agriculture in Carriacou.
12	Anguilla	Vital Statistics, 1898.
13	Cook Islands	Trade, 1899.
14	Bahamas	Fibre Industry.
15	Canada	Legal Status of British North American Indians.
16	Miscellaneous Colonies ...	Medical Reports.

No. 323.

ST. HELENA.

(For Report for 1899, *see* No. 309.)

GOVERNOR STERNDALE to MR. CHAMBERLAIN.

The Castle,

St. Helena,

3rd April, 1901.

SIR,

I HAVE the honor to transmit herewith the Blue Book of this Colony for the year 1900, together with my report on the same.

The year has been an exceptional one in the history of the Island since the days of Napoleon.

The presence of a large number of prisoners of war, of troops sufficient to guard them, and of the "Niobe," a first-class cruiser, succeeded by the "Thetis," caused a large consumption of dutiable imports, which resulted in the Customs Revenue reaching the sum of £10,426.

The total Revenue is the highest since 1871, and the actual expenditure, when we deduct certain sums to be repaid by the War Office and Admiralty, will be less than in the preceding three years.

The imports nearly doubled, having risen from £91,699 in 1899 to £168,282.

The demand for labour continues, but the scarcity has been relieved by the employment of well conducted prisoners of war, who are anxious to get work. By the aid of forty of these men I was enabled to carry out within a short time, and at reduced expense, two very important works, the reclamation of a portion of the foreshore running into the wharf on which to erect a new crane, and the blasting and construction of a road round the West Rocks to a point jutting out into the sea, where in future the scavenger carts will shoot their contents into the westerly

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ST. HELENA, 1900.

current instead of into the almost stagnant waters of an inner bay. Both these works were carried out under the supervision of Captain D. B. Thomson, of the 28th Bombay Pioneers, who happened to be here on leave, and who devoted the whole of his time gratuitously for some months to the work. Under him and in immediate charge of the prisoners, were Captain Waldeck and Baron Fagerskiold, both prisoners of war.

The masonry and foundations of the crane were finished before Captain Thomson was compelled to return to duty, but Baron Fagerskiold (a young Swedish engineer who had been employed on a Transvaal railway) carried on the work of mounting the crane, which is now being used.

The West Rocks Road is also finished and in use. It is not only of unquestionable utility from a sanitary point of view, but is a great boon to the residents of Jamestown as a pleasant evening promenade, which was greatly needed.

I have alluded in the Report to the visitation of influenza in May and June, the severest on record. We are now taking stringent measures to prevent the introduction of plague from the Cape, which if once admitted into so confined a place as this, crowded as it is at present, would be a serious calamity. The sanitary condition of Jamestown is occupying our attention, and I hope the projected drainage scheme may form a feature in the current year's report.

I have, &c.,

R. A. STERNDALE,

Governor.

FINANCIAL.

GENERAL REVENUE AND EXPENDITURE.

Comparative Statement of Revenue for the Years 1899, 1900.

—	1899.	1900.
	£ s. d.	£ s. d.
Customs	6,548 5 7	10,426 8 3
Licenses, taxes, auction dues	830 11 1	884 10 6
Fines, fees of court and reimbursements	1,270 11 3	842 1 10
Post office	1,126 12 5	1,470 16 1
Rents of Government property ...	838 1 8	869 0 4
Interest	651 10 2	661 9 4
Miscellaneous receipts	327 13 9	237 9 6
Total	11,593 5 11	15,391 15 10

Our financial position has still further improved during the year under report, being £3,798 9*s.* 11*d.* in excess of 1899. The chief increase has been under the head of "Customs," which exceeded the previous year by £3,878. The Post Office also benefited by the large number of prisoners of war and the increased garrison.

ST HELENA, 1900.

Comparative Statement of Expenditure for the Years 1899, 1900.

—	1899.			1900.		
	£	s.	d.	£	s.	d.
Port and marine department	469	4	2	473	17	7
Public debt	—			500	0	0
Pensions	1,521	17	10	1,323	7	0
The Governor	765	15	10	969	11	1
Colonial Secretary	535	18	9	596	4	8
Customs	733	19	1	643	0	4
Legal	321	18	11	331	18	0
Savings bank	431	5	3	463	16	3
Police	580	8	9	598	15	11
Gaol	98	12	3	143	4	1
Medical	1,050	17	4	1,218	3	7
Education	484	17	7	522	1	1
Post office	398	15	2	327	6	11
Miscellaneous services	350	18	9	555	2	11
Colonial engineer	166	0	0	184	2	6
Public works, recurrent	1,867	16	0	1,949	18	3
Public works, extraordinary	1,455	0	8	1,708	2	2
St. Helena sharpshooters	188	12	2	95	0	0
Total	11,421	18	6	12,603	12	4

The expenditure was heavier than in 1899 by £1,182, but when recoveries are made from the Imperial Government of sums spent on account of works entailed by the war, the actual expenditure for the Colony will be less than in the previous year.

The increased payments under the head of "Medical" are due to a serious epidemic of influenza and to the great rise in the price of provisions.

Total Revenue and Expenditure for the last Five Years.

Year.	Revenue.	Expenditure.
	£	£
1896	9,160	8,872
1897	8,803	13,004
1898	9,152	12,349
1899	11,693	11,421
1900	15,391	12,603

It will be noticed that from 1898 there has been a steady increase in Revenue which is due chiefly to the Customs; this increase was caused by the advent of the Boer prisoners and the augmented garrison, and is the highest recorded since 1871, when it reached £15,557.

Assets and Liabilities.

The results of the year are very favourable. In my last year's Report I stated that the Liabilities exceeded the Assets by £2,634, owing to £4,068 being over-paid by the Crown Agents on account of the heavy expenditure of the past two years. Now the assets exceed the liabilities by £2,625, and the over draft on the Crown Agents has been liquidated.

Another instalment of £500 has been made towards paying off the Parliamentary Grant of £5,158 made in 1871-2, reducing the debt to £4,158.

Currency.

The estimated amount of coin in circulation during the year under report was £25,000.

The amount of specie imported was £15,000. Exports of specie came to £3,785.

The Government Savings Bank deposits totalled £21,996.

The deposits during the year amounted to £7,181; the withdrawals to £4,027.

Remittances to England by bills on the Crown Agents were £34,882.

ST. HELENA, 1900.

Subjoined is a comparative statement of Revenue and Expenditure of Poor Relief Board for the last five years:—

Year.	Revenue.	Expenditure.
	£	£
1896	851	8
1897	826	820
1898	863	850
1899	862	889
1900	857	871

Public Market.

Year.	Revenue.	Expenditure.
	£	£
1896	83	82
1897	112	110
1898	107	109
1899	191	172
1900	238	202

The Market funds continued to improve, showing a profit of £36 against £19 in 1899, and that was due to fees on slaughter of cattle for the garrison and the prisoners of war.

TRADE, AGRICULTURE, AND INDUSTRIES.

Imports and Exports.

Year	Imports.	Exports.
	£	£
1896	30,950	4,739
1897	34,365	4,993
1898	62,985	4,391
1899	91,699	4,592
1900	168,282	4,215

Imports nearly doubled again in the year under report, the figures include £15,000 in specie, 800 oxen were imported by the Imperial Government for the use of the troops and prisoners, and 4,220 cases of preserved meats. Other noticeable items are oilman's stores, paraffin oil, wines and spirits, beer and tobacco, besides large consignments of stores (26,916 packages) for the Imperial Government.

The exports are as usual of very trifling value, viz., only £430 after deducting specie to the extent of £3,785, much less than the preceding year when they reached £998. Potatoes form the bulk of the exports from the Island, and during the year the local demand was so great and such high prices ruled, that it was probably more profitable to sell in the home market than to export.

MINES, MANUFACTORIES AND FISHERIES.

There is nothing to report in the way of Mining. Two of the prisoners of war, one being an architect, wrote to me reporting on a high class building stone, regarding which further enquiries will be made.

The lace industry is progressing, and a considerable impetus has been given to wood carving by the prisoners of war, some of whom excel in this art, though Miss Holmes' school bids fair to rival, if not excel, the best of them.

The Industrial Exhibition alluded to in my last Report, came off on the 10th of November. It was a modest yet interesting Exhibition, and as the expenses were not heavy, it was financially a success, allowing the Committee, after devoting £10 to two charitable institutions, to place in the Savings Bank a balance of about £11 as a nest egg towards the next exhibition.

The Islanders did not seem, somehow, to understand the full object and scope of the undertaking, many of those whose undoubted talents could have materially assisted the movement for some reason held back, and many of the poorer classes who had been working for it were, owing to the dearness of provisions and the necessities arising from the influenza epidemic, obliged to sell what they had made.

In some classes the excellence of a single exhibit made it a matter of regret to me that there was not some more competition when it was well known that there were others who were well able to compete.

This was noticeable in preserves, crystallized fruits, and garden produce.

In addition to the Exhibition prizes I had given special prizes myself for works in clay, specimens of fibre, preserves, crystallized fruits, and cured fish. In clay, the only exhibits were by myself.

ST. HELENA, 1900.

No one came forward in fibre, although I expected several exhibitors.

In preserved fruits and jams only one out of several expected exhibitors put in an appearance, and from the excellence of her productions she well deserved a prize, especially for crystallized fruit.

There was only one exhibitor in cured fish, and he was painfully in evidence in the department where he exhibited. However, he was given a prize, *pour encourager les autres*. In wood inlaying, in which one man excels, there were no exhibits.

This was to a certain extent disappointing, but we propose to have another Exhibition, perhaps next year, when we anticipate better results.

In garden produce, though the competitors were few in number, the exhibits were remarkably fine, showing well what the Island is capable of. There was a most creditable show of pillow lace done by Mrs. Jackson's pupils, which found a ready sale, and a beautiful and original design by Mrs. Jackson herself, composed of arum lilies and leaves with the words "St. Helena" in exquisitely fine lace, was greatly admired.

The wood carving by Miss Holmes and her pupils was the next most admired section; but the unique feature of the Exhibition was the large room devoted to the work of the prisoners of war. As an object lesson to the St. Helenians it was most valuable, showing how perseverance and energy could triumph over almost insurmountable difficulties, with the rudest implements, nails, pocket knives, self-made little planes and saws (which were also exhibited), the tables and walls were covered with most artistic work in wood and bone and metal. A large model of a gold stamping mill, complete in all its details, excited much attention and admiration. There was a great show of carved walking sticks, carved boxes, napkin rings made of beef bones, penholders and picture frames, metal work in the shape of commemoration medallions, and one most lovely little spray of a rose with leaves in silver made out of a half-crown piece, very delicate and artistic. The maker was a jeweller by trade, and a skilful one, but his tools were of the rudest description manufactured by himself.

Fisheries.

I have nothing to add to what I said last year about the fisheries. They are still unsatisfactory. A great demand and inadequate supply owing to lack of fishermen. It is a question I have still at heart.

AGRICULTURAL INDUSTRIES AND BOTANICAL STATIONS.

In the Botanical Gardens at Maldivia, and also at Plantation, the vine grafts imported from the Cape are doing well, but have not as yet started flowering.

A selection of English fruit trees, apples, pears, cherries, and plums have been planted out and are doing very well. Cherries are new to the Island, and there are but few good kinds of the other fruits.

Insect pests are as bad as ever; the peach fly has been most active, and I have seen no good peaches this year.

The want of insectivorous birds is greatly felt. The Indian Myna which I mentioned in my last report as having been lately introduced, has multiplied greatly, and flocks of them are frequently seen. They are a great comfort to the cattle, freeing them from ticks.

FORESTRY.

The question of forestry has been brought painfully before me this year by the cutting down of many trees to supply fuel for the Boer prisoners of war and the Troops. The contract price of wood has gone up from 6*d*. a donkey load of 100 lbs. to 1*s*. 6*d*. and 1*s*. 9*d*. which has led to the ruthless distruction of trees on private lands. One well wooded hillside is now bare, and unless the Imperial Government imports fuel for the Camps I fear much for the future of the Island.

I am endeavouring to introduce some new trees, as the fir tree or pine does not find favour in the sight of the people here; it is liable to be devoured by the white ant, and is not considered durable.

I am indebted to Earl Bathurst for a sack of horse chestnuts and another of beechmast from his estates in Gloucestershire, but unfortunately the steamer company carried them on and delivered them six weeks afterwards, on the return voyage, much deteriorated, and they have failed to germinate, but some laburnum seed in the same consignment came up freely. Lady Bathurst very kindly sent me three crimson oaks which are thriving as wall oaks seem to do here; and the following ornamental trees and flowering shrubs were imported by me and are all doing well:—Copper beach, crimson thorn, white and purple lilacs, which have flowered. Syringa grandiflora, also flowered, Cydonia (Pyrus) japonica, white and crimson, both flowered, and the wisteria sinensis, growing freely.

For future distribution to landowners the following seeds have been sown:—

Eighteen new kinds of eucalyptus (we have two species in the island), maple, poplar (black and tall species), plane, robinia, windringtonia, ash, birch, walnut.

The eucalypti are the trees I look forward to in the reparation of the ravages of the fuel contractors; they are quick growing, afford excellent fuel, even when green, and valuable timber if allowed to attain large proportions.

SHIPPING.

207 vessels called; 336 were sighted, and 291 communicated with the station.

The following is the tonnage of vessels entered and cleared:—

British steam	155,542
„ sailing	4,944
Foreign „	1,546

Total tonnage of all vessels boarded:—

English	437,554
Foreign	47,214

LEGISLATION.

The following Ordinances were passed during the year under report, viz.:—

No 1, of 25th June 1900, "An Ordinance to prevent the landing of unauthorized persons."

No. 2, of 13th August 1900, "An Ordinance to provide for the remission of duty on consignments of presents for the Boer Prisoners of War at St. Helena."

No. 3, of 27th September 1900, "An Ordinance to provide for the repealing of Section 3 of Ordinance No. 1, of 1900, and the Proclamation by the Governor of the 9th May 1900.

No. 4, of 28th September 1900, "An Ordinance to provide for the institution of Martial Law in certain places in the island of St. Helena, issued for the internment of Prisoners of War.

No. 5, of 31st December, "An Ordinance to authorize the supplementary expenditure for the year 1899."

The following Proclamations issued:—

12th February 1900.—Proclamation regulating the Game season for 1900.

19th March 1900.—Proclamation imposing quarantine on vessels from Sydney on account of Bubonic Plague at that Port.

7th June 1900.—Proclamation extending the Army Act to St. Helena.

20th August 1900.—Proclamation prohibiting the export of Arms, Ammunition and War material to China.

15th December 1900.—Proclamation removing restrictions imposed on vessels arriving from Sydney.

EDUCATION.

There are eleven schools, the same as in the preceding year, viz., four Government Schools, five charitable, one military, and one Baptist Sunday school. The number of scholars, however,

I regret to observe, decreased from 793 to 742. It was owing to the great demand for labour and the comparatively high wages given to mere children.

The proposed Educational Ordinance providing for compulsory attendance has not, as yet, received sanction, but in the present year I anticipate better results arising from the great interest taken by the Bishop in educational matters.

PUBLIC GARDENS AND MUSEUM.

Not much has been done during the year under report either in the Public Gardens or with the Museum. As a temporary measure I was obliged to camp the forty prisoners of war employed on the wharf in the gardens, in a corner away from parts used by the public, and I allowed them the use of the museum at night as a reading room. The men have been extremely well behaved and no damage has been done. The museum has gained during the year several specimens of minerals and fossil remains found during the blasting of the rocks for the West Rocks Road, and works in wood, metal, and bone from the prisoners camp at Deadwood.

JUDICIAL STATISTICS.

The figures are somewhat heavier than in the year 1899 in summary cases, but in serious crime there was only one case—of a boy convicted of arson.

That there should have been more petty crime was to be expected, as the population of the Island has been greatly increased, and a very turbulent element was introduced with the prisoners of war in the shape of Cape-boy mule drivers,—a class perpetually in trouble for fighting and reckless driving. I am glad to say the majority of them, and the worst, have been sent back to the Cape, their places being taken by St. Helenians.

The comparative figures are as follows:—

	1859.	1900.
Number of cases reported to police	134	246
Number of persons apprehended	121	196
Number of summary convictions	103	162
1. For offences against the person	20	32
2. For offences against property other than praedial larceny	4	10
3. For other offences	79	120

ST. HELENA, 1900.

VITAL STATISTICS.

The population of the Island was estimated to be, on the 31st December 1900, inclusive of troops, 5,316, added to which we had 2,454 prisoners of war.

The births were 116, 23·2 per thousand; the deaths were 165, or 33·3 per thousand, which, however, include troops, prisoners, and sailors, amounting to 23. The death rate was abnormally high; the previous year was only 17·3 per thousand, and the average is about 15 per thousand. The increased mortality was due to an exceptionally severe epidemic of influenza during the months of May and June. In one month the annual average was exceeded. Business was at a stand-still, the work of unloading cargo was stopped for want of labourers, the hospital was over-crowded, and the Lady Superintendent and her two Nurses stuck heroically to their posts although worn out with over-work. The Colonial Surgeon was laid up with the disease and incapacitated for weeks, but Major Mosse, R.A.M.C, the Senior Medical Officer, with Doctors Arnold and Roe of the Army Medical Staff, came to the rescue and did much to alleviate the suffering, but in the outlying parts of the Island the distress was great. In one house there was only a child of nine years of age who escaped, and had to attend to the others who were prostrated. For several days I could not get anyone to harness my horses, all the men living in the grounds of Government House, including my own servants, were down with the complaint, and the constant tolling of the adjoining church bell (there were eight funerals one day) had a most depressing effect on the invalids. Fortunately I and my family escaped, and were able to do something in the way of visiting cottages with medicine and soup, and we established a soup kitchen, which allowed of daily doles of nourishing broth. But in many cases pneumonia supervened and caused much mortality, as it was not possible for some of the poorer classes, who were beyond prompt medical aid, to get the necessary care; for instance, three strong men of one family in our neighbourhood were kept alive only by small sips of brandy and milk; in the house of one of them the wife and baby were both lying dead when our housekeeper went down with a fresh bottle of milk.

The poor here are, as a rule, very kind to each other in times of sickness, but nearly all were suffering at the same time. The wife of the head gardener at Plantation, Mrs. Constantine, a woman of not very strong health herself, was, however, of the greatest assistance, as she superintended the soup kitchen, a work of some labour, and assisted by her husband attended to the distribution.

Even after the epidemic was over the effects were felt for a long time by the sufferers, and this told severely on the labour market.

Fortunately the prisoners of war and the troops guarding them escaped, although the Island people in the neighbourhood of Longwood suffered.

POSTAL AND TELEPHONE.

The Post Office had a great deal of work thrown on it by advent of the prisoners of war and additional troops in April of last year, and the revenue rose from £1,126 12*s.* 5*d.* in 1899 to £1,470 16*s.* 1*d.* in 1900.

Money Orders issued in the Colony during the year amounted to £8,255 3*s.* 2*d.*

The payments were £2,904 0*s.* 6*d.*

The telephone line was extended and opened at West Point as a precautionary measure. It is purely an outlook station.

All the telephone lines are under the Royal Engineers, the Colony giving an annual subsidy of £45, and Lloyds £30.

The Eastern Telegraph Company line was in full working order during the year, and it was a great boon to us to be able to get news of the progress of the war, and of inestimable value to the Government.

GENERAL OBSERVATIONS.

The year under report has been an eventful one in the history of St. Helena, which from its discovery in 1502 has been destined to be a State prison. In 1511 the Portuguese banished a nobleman named Fernando Lopez to this Island. Later on the East India Company sent a Rajah to be interned here but he died on the voyage; then came the memorable exile of Napoleon, which brought St. Helena in prominent notice, and recently when the question arose what should be done with the Boer prisoners of war, St. Helena naturally suggested itself as the safest and most suitable place.

On April 10th 1900, the Transport "Milwaukee," escorted by H.M.S. "Niobe," Captain A. L. Winsloe, arrived with Cronjé, Schiel, Wolmarans and other leaders and a large number of prisoners; during the year successive transports came in with batches of Boers, till the number we have now amounts to 4,600. More would have been sent but for the difficulty of providing water in suitable spots. We have two camps, Deadwood Plain and Broad Bottom. Deadwood Plain is a high plateau adjacent to Longwood, treeless, and wind swept, but with a porous soil which dries up quickly after heavy rain.

ST. HELENA, 1900.

Its healthiness had been tested in 1899 by encamping the West Indian troops there, and it has been well proved since by the rapid way in which disappeared the enteric fever which the prisoners brought with them, their general good health since, and their escape from influenza during the epidemic which prostrated nearly the whole of the Islanders.

If a larger supply of water could have been delivered on this plain the whole of the prisoners might have been located there. but we had hard work to increase the old supply to meet the needs of 3,000 men, including troops; the original sources were springs under Diana's Peak, and there was a good deal of waste, this was remedied by making concrete basins and tanks at each spring, and adding to the system other small springs that had been left out, and by renewing the old pipes, and so the volume of water was doubled.

The two camps are about five miles apart. Broad Bottom lies more in a hollow and is in fact a broad shallow valley about 1,600 feet above the sea. The soil is more clayey than Deadwood, and the climate more humid, but the water supply is good, and the prisoners enjoy good health. The property is hired from the Honorable G. N. Moss, who has allowed the football teams of the camp the use of some high flat land for the game.

The prisoners have a large amount of liberty, a certain number being let out under passes every day. They have been hitherto very well behaved, and I have had no complaints from the people of the Island regarding any misconduct; a number of them have been allowed to take service with farmers and others who have made themselves responsible for their safety. The Colonial Government employed, under the orders of Captain D. B. Thomson, 28th Bombay Pioneers, about forty men, with Captain Waldeck and Baron Fagerskiold (both prisoners of war) in the construction of the West Rocks Road and the extension of the Wharf. They have been encamped in the Public Gardens in Jamestown, and their conduct has been most satisfactory. A number are also employed by the Imperial Government.

The prisoners are indeed most anxious to obtain work; the pay is not so much an object as the relief from the monotony of the camp. We have relieved this as much as possible by encouraging work of all kinds, chiefly carving in wood and making walking sticks, for which purpose I have supplied them with many hundreds of sticks from the extensive thickets of privet growing in the Government House grounds. I have also given them the thinning out of fir plantations and poles of the Furcroea Aloe for the construction of recreation rooms and school houses.

The Commissariat arrangements are admirable, the quality of the beef issued to the camps is first rate; some of the oxen imported have excited the admiration of the farmers of the Island.

I have in my possession photographs of two prime beasts, one of which came from Lord Rosebery's estates in Scotland, and which weighed 1,250 lbs. after being slaughtered and dressed.

The gross lies which have been circulated in the Continental papers about our treatment of the prisoners have aroused considerable indignation here, even amongst the prisoners themselves.

The Boer Hospital in Jamestown is fitted up in a perfect manner, and the patients when convalescent are loth to leave.

The fair and honest among the prisoners, whilst upholding their opinion that they were right to fight and would fight again in the same cause, acknowledge that they are well treated, and there are a few who have expressed a wish to settle in the Island after the war.

As regards the benefits derived by the Colony from the presence of the Boers and troops, the increase in the Revenue is the chief one, the Customs being especially benefited by large importations by the Island merchants.

The Imperial Government do not pay either duty or wharfage so that no direct advantage has accrued from the prisoners or troops.

To house property there has been some benefit, for owners have availed themselves of cheap Boer labour to carry out repairs which were, in most cases, much needed.

The owners of country produce have also benefited by the great demand for, and consequent high prices of, vegetables, poultry, eggs, milk, and butter; also for the hire of transport animals, viz., horses and donkeys; the price of the latter has risen from about £2 a piece to about £5.

On the other hand the Island has suffered from deforestation, owing to contracts for fuel being placed locally, which is a serious matter; and the roads are cut to pieces by the heavy traffic of mule waggons, which might have been avoided had pack-mules been used, as recommended by me at the outset.

The few pack-mules we have work very well. It has, however, been a hard time for the horses and donkeys of the Island employed by the contractors for transport service.

The forces in the Colony were commanded by Colonel J. B. Leefe, R.M.A., from the arrival of the prisoners on the 10th April till the 7th of December, when he was invalided home, and the command devolved upon Lieutenant-Colonel T. J. P. Evans, R.M.L.I. The 4th Battalion Gloucestershire Regiment is under the command of Lieutenant-Colonel Earl Bathurst.

Our Colonial forces are limited to a Company of Volunteer Sharpshooters, raised by myself in 1898. The corps is popular

ST. HELENA, 1900.

with the Islanders, and there would be no difficulty in increasing the number were it necessary. The men are all efficient.

In order to increase the *esprit de corps* and to induce resort to healthy amusements, we have started an Institute for the Company, with billiard and bagatelle tables, newspapers and magazines, which, I think, will be very popular and beneficial.

R. A. STERNDALE.

COLONIAL REPORTS—ANNUAL.

No. 371.

ST. HELENA.

REPORT FOR 1901.

(For Report for 1900, *see* No. 323.)

Presented to both Houses of Parliament by Command of His Majesty.
November, 1902.

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ANNUAL.

No.	Colony.	Year.
346	Northern Nigeria	1900–1901
347	British Solomon Islands	,,
348	Lagos	1900
349	British Guiana	1900–1901
350	St. Vincent	1900
351	Jamaica	1900–1901
352	Cocos Islands	1901
353	Southern Nigeria	1900
354	Bermuda	1901
355	Gambia	,,
356	Falkland Islands...	,,
357	Northern Territories of the Gold Coast ...	,,
358	Malta	,,
359	Gibraltar	,,
360	Straits Settlements	,,
361	Sierra Leone	,,
362	British Honduras	,,
363	Turks and Caicos Islands	,,
364	Seychelles...	,,
365	Bahamas	1901–1902
366	Fiji	1901
367	Ceylon	,,
368	Barbados	1901–1902
369	Hong Kong	1901
370	Cocos Islands	1902

MISCELLANEOUS.

No.	Colony.	Subject.
1	Gold Coast	Economic Agriculture.
2	Zululand	Forests.
3	Sierra Leone	Geology and Botany.
4	Canada	Emigration.
5	Bahamas	Sisal Industry.
6	Hong Kong	Bubonic Plague.
7	Newfoundland	Mineral Resources.
8	Western Pacific	British Solomon Islands.
9	Dominica	Agriculture.
10	Virgin Islands	Condition during 1897.
11	Grenada	Agriculture in Carriacou.
12	Anguilla	Vital Statistics, 1898.
13	Cook Islands	Trade, 1899.
14	Bahamas	Fibre Industry.
15	Canada	Legal Status of British North American Indians.
16	Miscellaneous Colonies ...	Medical Reports.
17	Gilbert and Ellice Islands ...	Report for 1896–1900.
18	Hong Kong	Operations in New Territory during 1900.
19	Miscellaneous Colonies ...	Medical Reports.
20	Wei-Hai-Wei	General Report.
21	Dominica	Report on Caribs.

No. 371.

ST. HELENA.

(For Report for 1900, *see* No. 323.)

GOVERNOR STERNDALE to MR. CHAMBERLAIN.

The Castle, St. Helena,
19th July, 1902.

SIR,

I HAVE the honour to forward herewith the Blue Book of this Colony for the year 1901, together with my report thereon.

I have, &c.,
R. A. STERNDALE,
Governor.

12745—875—10/1902 Wt 2861 D & S—5 A 2

FINANCIAL.

General Revenue and Expenditure.

Comparative Statement of Revenue for the Years 1900 *and* 1901.

—	1900.	1901.
	£	£
Customs	10,426	15,866
Licenses, taxes, &c	885	947
Fines, fees of court, and reimbursements in aid.	842	1,055
Post Office	1,471	2,090
Rents of Government property ...	869	886
Interest	661	704
Miscellaneous receipts	237	3,066
Total	15,391	24,614

The large increase in Miscellaneous Receipts is accounted for by heavier collections under "Commission on Drafts" and contributions from the Admiralty and War Office towards the new crane, extension of wharf, and the West Rocks road.

Comparative Statement of Expenditure for the Years 1900 *and* 1901.

—	1900.	1901.
	£	£
Public debt	500	—
Pensions	1,325	1,022
Governor	970	1,050
Colonial Secretary	596	628
Customs	643	939
Legal	332	347
Savings Bank	464	526
Police	599	821
Gaol	143	153
Medical	1,218	1,613
Education	522	542
Post Office	327	451
Miscellaneous	555	1,486
Colonial Engineer	184	191
Public works recurrent	1,950	2,059
Gratuities	—	105
Public works extraordinary	1,708	2,413
Port and marine	474	486
St. Helena Sharpshooters	95	95
Total	12,603	14,927

The great increase in Miscellaneous was due to the purchase of the hulk "Howden" for temporary quarantine purposes, and to special sanitary precautions against the introduction of plague.

Public Works Extraordinary were increased by the reconstruction of the Lemon Valley barracks as a quarantine station and by operations in forestry for which sanction had been received.

Total Revenue and Expenditure for the last Five Years.

Year.	Revenue.	Expenditure.
	£	£
1897	8,803	13,004
1898	9,153	12,349
1899	11,593	11,422
1900	15,392	12,604
1901	24,614	14,928

Assets and Liabilities.

I am glad to report still more favourable results this year. In my Report for 1900 I stated that the Assets exceeded the Liabilities by £2,625. In the year under report now they exceeded the Liabilities by £9,951.

Public Debt.

There was a Parliamentary grant of £5,158 made in 1871-2, which we began to pay off in annual instalments of £500 in 1898, and it stood at £4,158 at the end of 1901—still further reduced during the current year to £2,000.

Currency.

English coin only is current. Silver is a legal tender up to 40*s.* only, and copper (bronze coin) up to 1*s.* only, in one payment.

The estimated value of coin in circulation during the year was £35,000.

Specie was imported by the Imperial Government to the extent of £16,650. The only bank in the Colony is the Government Savings Bank. The amount deposited during the year came to £13,218. The withdrawals £7,717 1*s.* 5*d.*

The total deposits amounted to £28,003.

Remittances to England by bills on the Crown Agents were £64,703. These bills are now granted at three days' sight instead of ten days as before.

The following are comparative statements for five years of the Poor Relief Board and Public Market:—

Public Relief Board.

Year.	Revenue.	Expenditure.
	£	£
1897	826	820
1898	863	850
1899	862	899
1900	857	871
1901	933	855

Public Market.

Year.	Revenue.	Expenditure.
	£	£
1897	112	110
1898	107	109
1899	191	172
1900	238	202
1901	242	173

TRADE, AGRICULTURE, AND INDUSTRIES.

Imports and Exports.

Year.	Imports.	Exports.
	£	£
1897	34,365	4,993
1898	62,985	4,391
1899	91,699	4,592
1900	168,282*	4,215
1901	105,645†	4,724‡

* Inclusive of Imperial Stores, &c., amounting to £106,572.

† Exclusive of Imperial Stores, value of which not given.

‡ Deduct Specie, £4,035.

The Exports are as usual of small value. Generally, the bulk of them consists of potatoes, which during the year were too much in local demand to allow of exportation, but their place has been taken by skins, the number of oxen imported during the year for the meat rations of the prisoners of war and the troops having amounted to 2,110, the skins of which were purchased by local contractors.

The following table shows the value of the principal articles of import during the last year as compared with the previous one:—

Articles of Import.	1900.	1901.	Increase.	Decrease.
	£	£	£	
Beer, hogsheads ...	3,600	9,402	5,807	—
„ dozens ...	382	506	124	—
Beef and pork ...	1,225	1,003	—	222
Coals	810	4,485	3,675	—
Cigars	1,450	2,029	579	—
Drapery	7,910	10,618	2,708	—
Flour and grain ...	6,321	5,110	—	1,211
Machinery	2,859	4,623	1,264	—
Oilman's stores ...	14,752	16,245	1,306	—
Rice	2,134	1,940	—	194
Spirits, galls. ...	3,619	4,602	983	—
Sugar, bags ...	1,804	2,214	410	—
Tobacco	1,634	1,745	111	—
Wine, galls. ...	3,067	3,158	91	—
Total	51,567	67,685	17,745	1,627

The two principal items of increase, viz., beer and coals, are due to the increase in the garrison. The islanders also consume more beer than they used to.

Mines, Manufactures, &c.

I regret nothing had been done du ing the year under report in the way of manufactures or experiments in that direction. The conditions which have made the Island a prison for the time being have not been favourable for the development of any industry likely to be of permanent benefit to the islanders.

The lace making to which I alluded in my last Report has received what I hope will prove only a temporary check. Unfortunately, as it assumed a promising position it was thrown back by the loss of the market in home-going steamers, which, owing to the plague at the Cape, had to be placed in quarantine.

The amount of money which has been circulating, owing to the war and the high rates of wages which have been given, will

render it difficult for some time to impress upon the people the necessity for starting some industry. There will be no lack of work in the Island for the next two or three years, as the Colonial Government have the drainage of the town in hand and the Imperial Government have yet to build the barracks for the troops which are to be stationed at Deadwood, so labourers will be in demand and prices will keep up. Afterwards the former stagnation may set in and then the need for some local industry will be felt.

However great the advantages of climate and soil, any industry connected with agriculture must be starved for want of sufficient suitable land. The finest soil in the Island is under grass for pasturage, and seldom it is that any comes to the auctioneer's hammer, otherwise a few hundred acres, if put under coffee, ought to bring the owner substantial profit.

The coffee is of a fine quality and the trees bear well, but the cultivation is not carried out on a scale large enough to make it pay.

There are good years and bad years in coffee, and 1901 was a bumper year. Out of a small plantation of about a couple of hundred trees in the Government House grounds we obtained 500 lbs. of dried coffee. In the present year we have had only a very small quantity.

Agricultural Industries and Botanical Stations.

Market gardening has been most profitable during the time the prisoners of war have been in the Island, for the demand for fresh vegetables has been greater than the supply, and consequently prices have been very high, but, unfortunately, we had a long period of drought which caused much loss in green crops.

My own energies have been devoted to the establishment of nurseries for young trees at Plantation under the charge of a young German gardener, a prisoner of war. Some thousands of young seedlings, chiefly of various species of eucalyptus, were planted out in beds and offered for sale at low prices, but the drought above-mentioned caused the loss of a large number, especially as I had to stop irrigation on account of the failure of the springs, every drop of water being required for the needs of the garrison at Ladder Hill. A good many young trees were, however, sold at prices ranging from 3*d.* per foot in height.

A large number of cuttings of a species of evergreen fig were prepared for planting in rocky places on the road from Jamestown to Plantation, where holes have been dug for them. This tree, which is large and umbrageous, grows readily from stakes about three feet long by three inches in diameter.

Land Grants and General Value of Land.

There were no land grants during the year and only one estate came into the open market, which realised at auction about £12 an acre, including a house.

Shipping.

173 ships called, 320 were sighted, and 263 communicated with the Station.

The following is the tonnage of vessels entered and cleared:—

British, steam	248,089
„ sailing	4,654
Foreign	859
Total	253,602

The British steam tonnage of the previous year was 155,542, showing an increase during 1901 of 92,547 tons, owing to the larger number of steamers calling with oxen and stores for the Imperial Government.

LEGISLATION.

The following Ordinances were passed:—

No. 1 of May 4th, 1901. An Ordinance to provide for the formation of a Volunteer Force.

No. 2 of June 25th, 1901. An Ordinance to provide for the service of the year 1901.

No. 3 of July 1st, 1901. An Ordinance to provide for the supplementary expenditure of the year 1900.

No. 4 of September 4th, 1901. An Ordinance to provide for the remission of duty on consignments of tobacco for His Majesty's troops at St. Helena.

The following Proclamations were issued:—

January 26th, 1901. Accession of His Most Gracious Majesty King Edward VII.

January 30th, 1901. Respecting the game season for the year 1901.

February 16th, 1901. Imposing restrictions on vessels from Cape Colony on account of bubonic plague existing there.

March 15th, 1901. Respecting the Census.

April 10th, 1901. Lieutenant-Colonel Evans assuming the government of St. Helena during the absence of the Governor.

April 27th, 1901. Prohibiting the landing of cargo from any port in South Africa.

July 25th, 1901. Quarantine regulations.

August 13th, 1901. Port regulations with reference to boats leaving the Port of Jamestown during night hours.

November 14th, 1901. Quarantine regulations.

EDUCATION.

The number of schools is the same as in the year 1900, viz., four Government, five charitable, one military, and one Baptist Sunday School.

I remarked then that the number of scholars had decreased from 793 to 742 owing to the great demand for labour and the comparatively high wages given to mere children. I much regret a still further falling off from the same cause, the figures for 1901 showing a decline from 742 to 720, and this, I fear, will not be remedied till compulsory education is enforced.

PUBLIC GARDENS AND MUSEUM.

The Public Gardens suffered to some extent by the encampment therein of the prisoners of war engaged on the works on the wharf, but now that they have been removed steps will be taken to repair the damage.

The Museum had to be closed for a time owing to injuries to specimens by some of the prisoners of war from Deadwood Camp, the scales on a fine specimen of the tortoise-shell turtle having been ripped off for the purpose of making fancy articles for sale; also a carved stick from Madagascar was stolen, probably for a pattern; but collections continued to be made for ultimate arrangement.

JUDICIAL STATISTICS.

Petty crime increased considerably, as might have been expected with the increase of the population and the larger consumption of intoxiating liquors. There were, however, only two cases tried and convicted in the Supreme Court, one against the person and the other against property.

The following is a comparative statement:—

—	1900.	1901.
Number of cases reported to police	246	342
Number of persons apprehended	196	218
Number of summary convictions	162	218
1. For offences against the person	32	47
2. For offences against property other than prædial larceny	10	11
3. For other offences	120	160

VITAL STATISTICS.

During the year under report there was an improvement in the death rate, which was heavy (33·3 per thousand) the previous year owing to a severe epidemic of influenza. In 1901 the death rate was 23·8 per thousand, including garrison and prisoners of war. The number of the latter was raised during the year from 2,454 to 4,655, and our total death return of 125 included 45 prisoners, 9 soldiers, and 1 sailor.

POSTAL AND TELEPHONE.

The work of the Post Office greatly increased, and the revenue rose in consequence to £2,090 from £1,470 in 1900.

Money orders were issued to the extent of £8,572, and paid to the amount of £5,187.

The telephone lines are under the management of the Royal Engineers, the Colonial Government giving an annual grant of £45 and Lloyd's £30 Several new extensions were made in the year for military purposes.

GENERAL OBSERVATIONS.

The main points of interest during the year 1901 centre in the Boer camps. The total number of prisoners was 4,655, afterwards greatly increased by more recent captures. About 2,000, chiefly Free Staters, were confined in the new camp at Broad Bottom; the rest, including those captured at Paardeberg and a large number of foreigners, remained at Deadwood.

During the year the 4th Battalion of the Gloucestershire Regiment left for England and the 3rd Battalion of the Wiltshire Regiment arrived.

Bubonic plague having made its appearance in South Africa this year, a strict quarantine was established, and the landing of all cargo from South African ports prohibited, especially with a view to the prevention of rats being imported from infected places.

The sanitary condition of Jamestown not being satisfactory, the Board of Health was urged to take steps for the examination and cleansing of all houses and neglected areas, whitewash and disinfectants being distributed gratis and a system of house-to-house collection of refuse being established. The hulk "Howden," a large iron vessel lying in the harbour, was purchased and fitted up as a temporary quarantine depot till the station at Lemon Valley could be prepared. At the same time every encouragement was given to the destruction of rats, which swarm in the Island.

During the year I was compelled by ill-health to take four months' leave of absence, and the Honourable Lieutenant-Colonel T. J. P. Evans, the officer commanding the troops, ably administered the government from the 10th of April to the 18th August.

In July Mr. E. A. Brine, C.E., was deputed to examine and report on the drainage scheme for Jamestown, submitting plans and estimates. Mr. Brine gave the Government much valuable advice on other matters also.

We had no Colonial Engineer to assist him, but there was a young Swedish engineer, Baron H. Fagerskiold, a prisoner of war, who had been employed in the Public Works Department during his stay in the Island, who was of great assistance in the drawing of the plans.

Mr. Brine on the completion of his report returned to England to make arrangements for material and effective supervision and to come back in the current year to start the work. He is expected about the middle of August.

R. A. STERNDALE.

COLONIAL REPORTS—ANNUAL.

No. 392

ST. HELENA.

REPORT FOR 1902.

(For Report for 1901, *see* No. 371.)

Presented to both Houses of Parliament by Command of His Majesty.
August, 1903.

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COLONIAL REPORTS.

The following, among other, reports relating to His Majesty's Colonial Possessions have been issued, and may be obtained from the sources indicated on the title page :—

ANNUAL.

No.	Colony.	Year.
368	Barbados	1901–1902
369	Hong Kong	1901
370	Cocos Islands	1902
371	St Helena...	1901
372	British Solomon Islands	1901–1902
373	Jamaica	"
374	Leeward Islands	"
375	Gold Coast	1901
376	Grenada	"
377	Northern Nigeria	"
378	British Guiana	1901–1902
379	Mauritius	1901
380	Basutoland	1901–1902
381	Southern Nigeria	1901
382	Trinidad and Tobago	1901–1902
383	Bermuda	1902
384	St. Lucia	1901
385	St. Vincent	"
386	Falkland Islands	1902
387	Gibraltar	"
388	Wei-Hai-Wei	"
389	Sierra Leone	"
390	British Honduras	"
391	Gambia	"

MISCELLANEOUS.

No.	Colony.	Subject.
1	Gold Coast	Economic Agriculture.
2	Zululand	Forests.
3	Sierra Leone	Geology and Botany.
4	Canada	Emigration.
5	Bahamas	Sisal Industry.
6	Hong Kong	Bubonic Plague.
7	Newfoundland	Mineral Resources.
8	Western Pacific	British Solomon Islands.
9	Dominica	Agriculture.
10	Virgin Islands	Condition during 1897.
11	Grenada	Agriculture in Carriacou.
12	Anguilla	Vital Statistics, 1898.
13	Cook Islands	Trade, 1899.
14	Bahamas	Fibre Industry.
15	Canada	Legal Status of British North American Indians.
16	Miscellaneous Colonies ...	Medical Reports.
17	Gilbert and Ellice Islands ...	Report for 1896–1900.
18	Hong Kong	Operations in New Territory during 1900.
19	Miscellaneous Colonies ...	Medical Reports.
20	Wei-Hai-Wei	General Report.
21	Dominica	Report on Caribs.

No. 392.

ST. HELENA.

(For Report for 1901 *see* No. 371.)

GOVERNOR GALLWEY to MR. CHAMBERLAIN

The Castle,
St. Helena,
17th June, 1903.

SIR,

I HAVE the honour to forward herewith the Blue Book of this Colony for the year 1902, together with my Annual Report covering same.

I have, &c.,

H. L. GALLWEY,
Governor.

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ANNUAL REPORT FOR THE YEAR 1902.

I.—FINANCIAL.

(A.) Revenue.

The Revenue for the year from all sources amounted to £23,095, which is £1,519 less than the Revenue of the previous year.

Customs receipts were the principal source of Revenue and amounted to £16,627, an increase over 1901 of £761. Taking £6,000 as the average annual Customs' receipts under normal conditions, the above figures show that the presence of the Boer prisoners of war benefited the Revenue to the extent of £10,627 during the year under review. Further the Colonial Treasurer estimates that £900 of the Post Office Revenue was collected from Boer prisoners alone during that period.

The Revenue exceeded the Expenditure by £4,481.

The most noticeable decrease in the Revenue for the year, as compared with 1901, was under the head "Miscellaneous," amounting to £2,419, and was due to the fact that in 1901 the Colony recovered from the War Office and Admiralty sums amounting to £2,592, which had been expended on behalf of these Departments.

Attached are two statements marked K and L respectively; the former being a statement of the Revenue for the years 1901 and 1902, in which the different heads are shown; and the latter, a return of the Revenue and Expenditure for the last five years.

(B.) Expenditure.

The Expenditure for the year amounted to £18,613, being an increase of £3,686 over that of 1901. The principal causes of this excess were:—

(*a.*) A payment of £2,158 was made towards the liquidation of the Imperial loan, leaving a balance still due on the 31st December, 1902, of £2,000. No payment was made in 1901. This loan was granted to the Colony by Parliament in 1871-72 to pay off certain outstanding debts.

(*b.*) Increased expenditure under "Public Works Recurrent" amounting to £519, consequent on the employment of a large number of Boer prisoners on forestry work; expenses incurred in carrying out temporary repairs to Plantation House; and the cost of laying a new water main from Lufkin's Springs to Plantation House.

(*c.*) Under "Public Works Extraordinary" an increase of £1,432 appears, caused by the necessary expenditure in the new drainage and waterworks in Jamestown; purchase of police quarters; renewing and repairing Quarantine Station; and expenses in connection with the Quarantine Hulk "Howden."

(*d.*) An increase of £365 under Customs—due to increased rebate of duty on beer consumed by the troops during the period when the prisoners of war were interned in the Island.

The only noticeable decrease in Expenditure under any particular head, as compared with 1901, is found under "Miscellaneous," amounting to £830. This decrease was principally due to the reduction of expenditure under the sub-head "Sanitary Precautions." In 1901 the expenditure under this sub-head was £875, whereas in the year under review it amounted to £114.

Attached is a statement marked M showing the Expenditure for the years 1901 and 1902 under the different heads.

(C.) Assets and Liabilities.

Attached is a statement, marked N, of Assets and Liabilities, which shows an excess of Assets over Liabilities of £13,747 on the 31st December, 1902. The excess on the 31st December, 1901, was £9,952.

This satisfactory condition of the Colony's finances is solely due to the presence of the Boer prisoners of war in the Island, together with the large garrison and the men-of-war that were necessary to guard them.

The balance of £2,000 still due to complete the paying off of the Government loan of 1871-72 is not included in the return of Liabilities.

(D.) Currency.

£15,000 in specie was imported during the year, against an export of only £250.

Local remittances made by bills granted by the Government on the Crown Agents amounted to £84,482 during the year, from which commissions amounting to £585 were paid.

The only Bank in existence in the Colony is the Government Saving's Bank, which had a very prosperous year. As the manager of the Bank points out, the best test as to whether a Bank is moving ahead or backward is to consider the amount the depositors leave in the Treasury at the end of each year. The returns for the past 30 years (except one) show that the Capital or Reserve in 1872, *i.e.*, seven years after the Bank came into existence, was £1,130, and in 1901 it reached

£28,003; whereas in the year under review it amounted to £31,747, exclusive of interest for the year which amounted to £759. The amount deposited during the year was £11,409, being a decrease of £1,809 on the deposits of 1901. The withdrawals amounted to £8,274, as against £7,717 in 1901.

The amount of money invested on the 31st December, 1902, was £27,449, being an increase of £4,918 as compared with the corresponding date in 1901.

The number of depositors during the year was 221, being 3 in excess of 1901.

II.—TRADE, AGRICULTURE, AND INDUSTRIES.

(A.) Trade.

I attach a return, marked O, showing the value of Imports and Exports for the last five years including the year under review. I also attach a second return, marked P, showing the Customs Revenue for the same period.

The abnormally high amount derived from duties in 1902 (and in 1901) was almost entirely due to the presence of the Boer prisoners of war and the troops required to guard them. The prisoners of war having now left the Colony, the Revenue derived from the Customs must materially decrease.

The exported articles during the period covered by this report were:—Empty hogsheads, hides, empty iron tanks, and a small amount of specie.

The chief Imports were:—Oilman's stores, £15,972; drapery and dry goods, £10,474; beer, £8,972; spirits and wine, £6,093; tobacco and cigars, £4,306; butter, £3,969; grain, seed, &c., £3,952; flour, £3,600; hardware and metal goods, £3,355; sugar, £3,088; rice, £2,613; coal, £1,725; leather goods, £1,597; and beef, pork, £1,423.

The figures given in table O do not include the value of stores, &c., imported by the Imperial Authorities for the use of the troops and prisoners.

No farm produce was exported during the year. In fact, no such produce has been exported since 1899, in which year one farmer exported 1,110 bags of potatoes, value £743, to the Cape.

During the internment of the prisoners of war in the Island the demand for farm produce was greater than the supply: and this alone would account for the fact of there being no export in these articles.

(B.) Agricultural Industries and Botanical Stations.

There is no Botanical Station in the Island. There are Government Gardens in Jamestown in charge of an ordinary labourer.

A number of Eucalyptus and other trees were supplied from Plantation on repayment to the Public during the year to the extent of £69 4*s.* 6*d.*, being an increase of £32 6*s.* 6*d.* on the 1901 sales.

During the greater part of the year a party of Boers were constantly employed at tree planting and forestry work at Plantation and Half-Tree Hollow. The expenses connected therewith amounting to £79 odd. It would appear that coffee planting would never pay in this Island. Labour is too expensive.

Crops were a total failure, at the beginning of 1902, owing to want of rain, but during the last seven months of the year conditions were fairly favourable.

An epidemic of scours among the cattle resulted in a heavy loss to many farmers. In a good season very fine crops of potatoes grow at Longwood—but owing to dampness in other parts of the Island potatoes, as a rule, suffer from blight and rot, and are a very uncertain crop. Very little appears to be done in raising other vegetables.

Stock raising and dairy produce are what the farmers chiefly depend on—but I understand there is only a small profit in either case. The grasses are poor, and the ground dries up quickly owing to the small depth of soil. All animals too, seem to be affected by the dampness of the atmosphere. This applies only to the higher lands The best sheep and donkeys are found on the outskirts of the Island where it is warm and dry. Bees fare better in Jamestown than they do in the country. Cattle are only fit to kill off grass in November, December, and January, the three driest months. The cows give very little milk, and of a poor quality if only fed on grass. If fed on oil cake—which is the rule, in order to supply the demand for milk and butter—the cost of producing allows for little or no profit.

(C.) Fisheries.

A Commission on the state of fisheries is now sitting with a view to seeing if it is possible to remedy the existing unsatisfactory state of the industry.

(D.) Shipping.

I attach a return, marked Q, showing the number and tonnage of vessels, both sail and steam, which entered and cleared with cargo and in ballast during the five years 1898 to 1902, both inclusive. Also a return, marked Q 1, showing the number of vessels which touched at St. Helena and were boarded by the Harbour Master during the year under review.

III.—LEGISLATION.

There were nine Ordinances enacted, of which the most important were:—

No. 8. "To provide for the re-construction and improvement of the system of water supply for Jamestown," and

No. 9. "To provide for the carrying out of drainage works in Jamestown."

IV.—EDUCATION.

There is no provision for either Higher or Secondary Education in the Island. Primary Education alone is attempted, and there is great need for improvement in this branch.

There are nine schools in the Colony—four of which are maintained by the Government, two by a Charity known as "Miss Rebecca Hussey's Charity," two by the Benevolent Society, who receive a small grant of £30 per annum from the Government—and a military school maintained by the Military Authorities for soldiers' children. There are no private-venture schools in the Island.

During the year under review, 537 (approximately) children were under instruction in the eight schools. The military school does not come within the scope of this Report. This number is under 60 per cent. of the children as shown in the Census of 1901. The Right Reverend the Lord Bishop of St. Helena in a report on the state of Education in the Island, says:—"The standard of Education is very low. Hitherto it has been of a most perfunctory character. Any attempt to teach anything beyond the simplest elements of reading, &c., has been made in some of the schools by causing the children to learn like parrots, answers to certain questions. Such a system is to be absolutely condemned. It is an abuse of the faculty of memory, and is detrimental to the intelligence. The primary object of Education is to teach the student how to think. This has never been done, and consequently the standard of intelligence is a very low one."

During my short experience in this Island I have satisfied myself that His Lordship has in no wise exaggerated facts. As a proof of the illiteracy, in 1901 and 1902 there were 68 marriages registered, and of those required to sign the register only 41 per cent. could write their names. The great want is a better class of teachers, those who have been trained in the art of teaching.

The question of Education is of paramount importance; and steps have already been taken with a view to remedying the existing unsatisfactory state of affairs; consequently I do not consider it would serve any good purpose to point out the many further defects at present existing under this head.

V.—GOVERNMENT INSTITUTIONS.

(A.) Hospitals.

The number of cases treated in the Civil Hospital during the year was 146, of which 71 were females. The figures in 1901 were 124 and 56 respectively.

No record is kept of the number of out-patients treated.

The deaths amounted to 17, being an increase of 7 as compared with 1901.

The principal diseases fall under the following heads:—

Disease.	1901.	1902.
Digestive System ...	15	23
Enteric Fever	12	37
Tubercular Diseases ...	10	9
Respiratory ,, ...	—	11
Circulatory ,, ...	—	10
Bone	8	0

The increase in sickness is dealt with under the head of Public Health.

The Nursing Staff consists of a lady superintendent and three lady nurses, and is quite satisfactory and sufficient for all needs. The Acting Colonial Surgeon reports that the nursing arrangements are all that can be desired.

There is also a Military Hospital in the Colony, which does not, however, come within the scope of this Report.

(B.) Savings Bank.

Particulars of this Bank are given under the head of Currency.

VI.—JUDICIAL STATISTICS.

(A.) Criminal Statistics.

Supreme Court.—There was only one criminal trial, viz., manslaughter. The prisoner was sentenced to 10 years with hard labour.

Police Court.—In this Court the Police Magistrate heard 312 cases, as against 232 in 1901.

Cases.	1901.	1902.
Assaults and other offences against the person	47	33
Malicious injury to property	6	5
Offences against property other than malicious	5	20
Offences against highways, and stealth	6	13
Offences by seamen, boatmen, prostitutes, soldiers, and prisoners of war; such as soliciting, drunkenness, assaults, and minor cases	154	177

The above figures show 248 convictions in 1902, as compared with 218 in 1901.

(B.) Prisons.

There is only one Gaol in the Colony, which building is in Jamestown.

The number of prisoners received into the Gaol during 1902 was 83, as compared with 41 in 1901. 88 prisoners were discharged during the year, as against 34 in 1901.

Of the 83 prisoners committed during 1902, 81 were for terms of imprisonment under three months, and one for over one year. There were no executions during the year.

On the 1st January, 1903, there were two convicted prisoners in the Gaol, and none awaiting trial.

VII.—VITAL STATISTICS.

(A.) Population.

A Census taken in 1901 showed the number of inhabitants to be 3,342. In addition to these the garrison (including women and children) amounted to 1,532; shipping, 321; and prisoners of war, 4,655 (including 5 censors).

Taking the civil population, there were 165 births registered during 1902, as against 129 in 1901. The deaths totalled 118, as compared with 71 in 1901. Consequently the number of inhabitants were slightly in excess of the Census figures for 1901. Of the 3,342 inhabitants given above, no less than 3,172 were St. Helena born. The females exceed the males by about 20 per cent.

On the 1st January, 1902, there were 4,557 prisoners of war in the Island, the majority of these were repatriated towards the end of the year, and only 56 remained on the 31st December, 1902.

(B.) Public Health.

The Acting Colonial Surgeon reports that during the year under review there was a considerable increase in the number of enteric fever cases and in digestive diseases. The increase in enteric fever is accounted for by the fact that this disease broke out in epidemic form at the Camp at Deadwood, where about 4,000 Boer prisoners were encamped. The disease was brought into the Island by the prisoners, and spread more or less all through the Island.

The steady increase in digestive diseases after the arrival of the Boer prisoners is attributed to the following causes:—

Articles of diet, such as fish, vegetables, &c., which the natives had been accustomed to live on were at famine prices on account of the abnormally great demand for such articles by the troops and prisoners. The natives, therefore, very often had to resort to tinned food, which they had never been accustomed to. This, the Acting Colonial Surgeon points out, was a fertile cause of dysentery and diarrhœa.

It appears there is invariably more sickness during the period from May to October—the rainy season—than during the other months of the year.

Vaccination appears to have been carried out universally. During the year nearly 400 persons underwent the operation with very satisfactory results, but I understand that the majority of the natives are still unprotected by vaccination. The number of deaths during the year was as follows:—

Civil population	118
Military	23
Sailors	3
Prisoners of war	95

Taking the Civil population at roughly 3,400 the death rate amongst the inhabitants proper was roughly ·75 per cent.

(C.) Sanitary.

The country districts of the island being sparsely populated allows sanitary matters to be easily dealt with, and they are reported as generally satisfactory.

The sanitation of Jamestown appears to have been hitherto far from satisfactory, and in fact, as reported by the Acting Colonial Surgeon, the sanitary arrangements have been very primitive and very unsanitary.

The new drainage scheme and improvements in the water supply, which are now being carried out, should, when completed, greatly improve the sanitary condition of Jamestown. The water supply has hitherto not always been sufficient in

quantity to meet sanitary requirements. The quality of the water is excellent.

(D.) Climate.

The only Meteorological Station is at Hutts Gate, situated about 1,900 feet above sea level. There were no phenomena recorded during the year.

The highest temperature in the shade was 78°, this was on the 6th February. The lowest maximum was 62° on the 1st November, and the lowest minimum for the year was 49°, recorded on the 17th September.

The total rainfall for the year was 34·740 inches, being 3·85 inches less than in 1901. The greatest fall in one day being 1·41 on the 3rd August. It rained on 254 days of the year, although on some of these days the fall was only ·005 inches. June, July, and August are the wettest months.

The prevailing wind is E.S.E. to S.E. On only seven days of the year was the wind recorded as "Calm."

Records of the different instruments are only taken once a day, at 9 a.m.

VIII.—POSTAL, TELEGRAPH, AND TELEPHONE SERVICES.

(A.) Postal.

The Postal Revenue for the year under review amounted to £2,099 18*s.* 6*d.*, being an increase of £9 11*s.* 11*d.* over that of 1901.

The Expenditure was £429 1*s.* as compared with £451 10*s.* 3*d.* in 1901.

During the year 507 bags of mails and 4,107 parcels post packages were received from England, being a decrease of 131 and 679 respectively, as compared with 1901.

From Cape Colony and Natal 32 parcels post packages were received, none having been received in 1901.

132 bags of mails were received from Cape Colony and Natal, being a decrease of 54 as compared with 1901.

83,262 letters, newspapers, post-cards, and book-packets were despatched to England, and 77,595 to Cape Colony and Natal. These figures show an increase of 171 and a decrease of 5,103 respectively, when compared with 1901.

1,404 parcel post packages were despatched to England during the year, and 714 to Cape Colony and Natal, showing decreases of 256 and 21 respectively, over 1901.

The total amount received in Money Orders amounted to £5,521 11*s.* 6*d.*, being an increase of £333 10*s.* 3*d.* as compared with 1901.

£9,321 4*s.* 5*d.* in Money Orders were despatched during the year, on which a commission of £109 2*s.* 3*d.* was made. The figures in 1901 were £8,554 3*s.* 8*d.* with a commission of £101 3*s.* 7*d.* This increase in the amount of Money Orders despatched was due to the troops remitting money to their families through the Post Office instead of through the Military Department. The Revenue realized through the sale of postage stamps, post-cards, and registered envelopes amounted to £1,840 2*s.* 9*d.*, being a decrease on 1901 of £59 19*s.* 3*d.*

The Post Master reports that no registered nor insured articles were lost during the year.

(B.) Telegraph and Telephone.

Neither the Telegraph nor Telephone services are controlled by the Colonial Government. Telegraphic communication with the outer world was established *via* Cape Town in October, 1899, by the Eastern Telegraph Company, Limited. The section to Ascension was laid two months later. In February, 1900, Ascension was connected with St. Vincent, Cape Verde, which gave this Island direct communication with Europe by the already existing cables.

The Telegraph Staff originally consisted of nine operators, at present the number is 22. The reason of this increase is due to the fact that the station in this Island has to transmit all telegrams between Europe and South Africa, and at any time may be called upon to deal in the same way with all messages between Europe and Australia. The cables are duplexed, thus allowing telegrams to be sent and received simultaneously to and from England and to and from the Cape.

The cost per word to Great Britain and Europe is 2*s.* 6*d.* *via* St. Vincent, and 7*s.* *via* Cape Town.

The Telephone service is entirely under Military control. The total mileage of wire, administrative system, amounts to 38 miles, and command system, 3[illegible] miles.

During the year under review, 20,528 official messages were transmitted, and 4,421 private messages. Five Military and four Civilian operators are employed.

The Colonial Government give an annual grant of £45 towards the maintenance of this service.

IX.—MILITARY FORCES AND EXPENDITURE.

The garrison of the Island consists entirely of Regular troops. There is, however, a local corps, the "St. Helena Volunteer Sharpshooters," composed chiefly of Government and Civil employees, who are instructed in drill and target practice during non-working hours. This Corps would prove most useful should mobilization become necessary. A good spirit exists among the men. The strength of the Corps on the 31st December, 1902, was three officers and 75 men.

The primary object of the Corps is to train a number of the inhabitants of the Island to the use of the rifle so that their services in time of war may be available for the defence of the Island. During the year, those members of the Sharpshooters who had been employed in any military duties during the period the prisoners of war were in the Island were recommended for the South African Medal without a clasp. The only expense in connection with the corps is a Government Capitation Grant of £95 per annum, calculated at the rate of 35*s.* per officer or man.

X.—GENERAL OBSERVATIONS.

(A.) Important Events during the Year.

Great consternation and sorrow was caused throughout the Island on the news being received of His Majesty's serious illness, and the joy of the people on hearing of His Majesty's complete recovery and subsequent Coronation was ample proof that in the St. Helenians His Majesty possesses most loyal subjects.

The Colony sustained a loss by the death of Governor Sterndale, which event took place in London on October 3rd, 1902. Governor Sterndale always had the interests of the Island and its people greatly at heart, and was universally respected and esteemed.

The most important event during the year, which concerned the welfare of the Island, took place between the months of June and August, during which period between five and six thousand Boer prisoners were repatriated.

The first party to leave consisted of 118 leading Boers, who, after taking the Oath and satisfying the Authorities that they could maintain themselves, returned at their own expense to South Africa. The greater number of these were men of considerable property, who were anxious to return to their farms in the Transvaal and Orange River Colonies in order to be in time for the sowing season which commenced in August. The behaviour of the Burghers throughout the embarkation appears to have been most satisfactory.

All the arrangements in connection with the repatriation were carried out under the directions of Colonel A. J. Price, C.M.G.

(B.) Railways, Roads, and Canals.

Railways and canals do not exist in the Colony. With the exception of the roads in Jamestown, the control of all roads lies with the Imperial Authorities, who expended £692 on their upkeep and repair during 1902. The mileage of these roads is about 60 miles. The Town roads (2½ miles) cost the Colonial Government £70 during the year.

(C.) Public Works of Importance carried out in Whole or Part during the Year.

Important works in connection with improvements in the drainage and water systems were commenced during the year under review.

Work on the drainage was commenced on 23rd August, and excellent progress was made, thanks to the exertions of Mr. Brine and Mr. Chisholm.

Much difficulty was experienced in procuring ordinary labourers as well as artisans capable of laying pipes, &c. The amount sanctioned for the drainage works is £4,000, of which £2,024 5*s.* 8*d.* was expended during the year. This latter sum, however, includes the greater part of the materials required for the works, which arrived in September. It also includes a sum of £212 17*s.* 4*d.* paid for materials to be used for house drainage, and as this will eventually be recovered, the actual amount expended during the year was £1,811 7*s.* 11*d.*

The progress on the water-works, which were begun on 25th August, was satisfactory considering the local conditions. The rate of progress of the works was considerably impeded owing to the necessity of maintaining the water supply all the while to the town, so that temporary connections had to be made daily.

About the middle of November it became necessary to stop the works on the water supply as sufficient hands were not available to carry on both drainage and water-works at the same time; and also because no competent man could be obtained to perform the necessary connections and repairs to house services; the work already done in that connection being very unsatisfactory. The only way to meet such a difficulty is by getting out from England a competent man who could do all jointing and plumbing. This is being done.

The amount sanctioned for the water-works is £1,500, of which £768 0*s.* 8*d.* was expended up to 31st December, 1902. This outlay contains the greater part of the materials required, as well as a sum of £271 15*s.* for materials for house service work, and which will be recovered. Consequently the sum actually expended in connection with the water-works scheme during the year under review was £496 5*s.* 8*d.*

(D.) Land Grants and General Value of Land.

No grants of land were made by the Government in 190
The value of land varies considerably, and it is hardly possibl
to quote a standard value. It appears that land very seldo
becomes available for purchase, but when a purchaser actuall
appears, who is very anxious to acquire the land, the price pai
is very often considerably in excess of the rateable value.

The rents of Government lands for the year under revie
amounted to £995 11*s.*

(E.) Rate of Wages and Cost of Living.

Tradesmen earn about 5*s.* per day, and labourers, 2*s.* 6
Domestic servants (female) earn from 15*s.* to 50*s.* per mont
and men servants (grooms, &c.) from £3 a month.

The employment of a large number of the inhabitants by th
Imperial Authorities, during the time the Boer prisoners wer
in the Island, was the means of allowing numbers of the labour
ing class to put by a considerable amount of money, with th
result that rather than take the 2*s* 6*d.* a day rate, many prefe
to remain idle and live on their capital. Many have emigrate
to South Africa, being tempted by the high wages given there
Should considerable emigration take place, it would quite para
lize any progress in public works being made.

The absence of skilled labour in the Colony is deplorable
The cost of living is not cheap, having in some instances rise
100 per cent., as compared with prices before the Boer prisoner
came to the Island. The staple diet of the inhabitants is fish
this has risen 100 per cent. in price, and in some cases 200 pe
cent., during the last three years.

The freight charged by the steamship companies on good
from England is very high, and in many cases adds from 25 pe
cent. to 50 per cent. to the cost of the articles imported.

(F.) Departments and Institutions.

The majority of the Departments have been dealt with unde
the different heads, with the exception of the Public Work
and Printing Departments. The Expenditure in the Publi
Works Department during the year amounted to £4,047. Thi
expenditure is exclusive of the money spent in the new wate
and drainage works, reported on under another head. £60
odd of the above amount was expended in quarantine and sani
tary precautions in connection with the plague in South Africa
and £670 in purchasing new police barracks. The work in
connection with the Printing Department was somewhat heavy
owing to the large demands made on the Department by th
Imperial Government in connection with the repatriation o
the Boer prisoners, 44½ reams of paper being used up, as com
pared with 13 reams in 1901.

The following are comparative statements for the last five years of the Receipts and Expenditure of the Poor Board and Public Market:—

Poor Board.

Year.	Revenue.	Expenditure.
	£	£
1898	863	850
1899	862	899
1900	857	871
1901	933	855
1902	897	899

Public Market.

Year.	Revenue.	Expenditure.
	£	£
1898	107	109
1899	191	172
1900	238	202
1901	242	173
1902	197	186

The financial year of the Poor Board ends on the 31st March, and that of the Public Market on the 31st December.

(G.) Miscellaneous.

The financial position of the Colony on the 31st December, 1902, was satisfactory. The surplus, however, is not sufficient to cope with the many pressing needs in improvements and repairs.

The presence of the Boer prisoners, whilst it improved the financial status of the Colony, on the other hand, increased the cost of living and the rate of wages. Further, the Island was de-forested, in some parts to a serious extent, owing to the heavy call made for wood fuel for the prisoners and troops. The result of many of the boating and labouring classes making considerable sums of money has led to emigration and to disinclination on the part of some of such persons to accept the recognised wage.

H. L. Gallwey,
Governor.

The Castle,
St. Helena.

K.

The following Table gives a comparison of the Revenue the two last years classified under the principal heads :—

Head.	1901.	1902.	Increase.	Decrea
	£	£	£	£
1. Customs	15,866	16,627	761	—
2. Licenses, taxes, auction dues ...	947	825	—	12
3. Fines, fees of court or office, and reimbursements in aid ...	1,055	1,040	—	1
4. Post Office	2,090	2,030	—	6
5. Rents of Government property	886	996	110	—
6. Miscellaneous receipts	3,066	647	—	2,41
7. Interest	704	930	226	—
Total	24,614	23,095	1,097	2,61

L.

The following Table shows the Revenue and Expendit during the last five years :—

Year.	Revenue.	Expenditure.
	£	£
1898	9,152	12,349
1899	11,593	11,422
1900	15,391	12,603
1901	24,614	14,927
1902	23,095	18,613

M.

The following Table gives the various instances of Increase and Decrease under the different heads of Expenditure for the two last years :—

Head.	1901.	1902.	Increase.	Decrease.
	£	£	£	£
St. Helena Volunteers ...	95	95	—	—
Public debt	—	2,158	2,158	—
Pensions	1,022	1,029	7	—
The Governor	1,050	969	—	81
Colonial Secretary	628	674	46	—
Customs	940	1,305	365	—
Legal	347	321	—	26
Savings Bank	525	628	103	—
Police	821	762	—	59
Medical	1,613	1,558	—	55
Education	542	541	—	1
Post Office	451	513	62	—
Miscellaneous Services ...	1,486	656	—	830
Colonial Engineer	191	191	—	—
Public works recurrent ...	2,059	2,578	519	—
Public works extraordinary...	2,413	3,845	1,432	—
Port and marine	486	545	59	—
Gratuities	105	—	—	105
Gaol	153	245	92	—
Total	14,927	18,613	4,843	1,157

N.

Assets and Liabilities, on the 31st December, 1902.

Revenue.

	£	s.	d.	£	s.	d.
Customs...	16,627	7	1			
Other Receipts...	6,467	18	2			
				23,095	5	3

Expenditure.

	£	s.	d.	£	s.	d.
Personal	5,105	5	7			
Other Charges	13,508	13	1			
				18,613	18	8

Assets.

	£	s.	d.	£	s.	d.
In Colonial Chest	913	1	5			
With Crown Agents	7,980	7	4			
Remittances in transit to C. A. ...	5,326	2	10			
Advances due to Colony (*See over.*)...	10,340	9	3			
Arrears of Revenue (*See over.*) ...	10	1	1			
Parliamentary Grants...	—					
Grants in Aid	—					
Mail Service	11	4	2			
Invested for Savings' Bank ... ... (Market Value.)	27,449	5	9			
				52,030	11	10

Liabilities.

	£	s.	d.	£	s.	d.
Arrears due by Colony	—					
Personal	35	0	0			
Pensions (*See over.*)	101	18	7			
Miscellaneous (*See over.*)	6,260	6	0			
Due to Savings' Bank	31,747	1	3			
Loans (as below)	—					
Sea Carriage of Mails	108	19	7			
Grant to Benevolent Society undrawn for year 1902.	30	0	0			
				38,283	5	5

Excess of Assets over Liabilities £13,747 6*s.* 5*d.*

Note.—Balance of Parliamentary Grant of £2,000 is not included in the Liabilities.

Advances Due to Colony.

—	Amount.		
	£	*s.*	*d.*
Government of Trinidad	2	19	3
Crown Agent at Interest	9,000	0	0
Board of Trade	35	0	0
Meteorological Council	2	10	0
Transvaal Government	1,300	0	0
Total	10,340	9	3

Arrears of Revenue.

—	Amount.		
	£	*s.*	*d.*
Auction dues	10	1	1
Total	10	1	1

Pensions.

—	Amount.		
	£	*s.*	*d.*
T. Goodwin	2	15	0
J. C. Melliss...	46	11	8
R. C. Pennell	34	7	6
J. Hercules	2	5	8
R. Dowling	15	18	9
Total	101	18	7

Miscellaneous.

—	Amount.		
	£	*s.*	*d.*
Bills of Exchange unpaid	6,254	0	0
Fees due Emigration Agent ...	6	6	0
Total	6,260	6	0

VALUE of TRADE, 1898 to 1902.

Year.	Imports from.				Exported to.			
	United Kingdom.	Colonies.	Elsewhere.	Total.	United Kingdom.	Colonies.	Elsewhere.	Total.
	£				£			
1898 ...	50,744 —	12,241	—	62,985	3,816 3,746 specie	575	—	4,391
1899 ...	80,232 9,000 specie	7,598	3,869†	91,699	3,849 3,594 „	743	—	4,592
1900 ...	159,573 15,000 „	8,709	—	168,282	4,075 3,875 „	140	—	4,215
1901* ...	100,675 16,650 „	4,970	—	105,645	4,724 4,035	—	—	4,724
1902* ...	93,920 15,000 „	6,558	—	100,478	1,168 250	587	—	1,755

* Values of Imperial Government Stores not furnished.

† Whale oil transhipped.

P.

DUTY, 1898 TO 1902.

Year.	Total Duties.
	£ s. d.
1898	2,819 4 3
1899	3,765 1 7
1900	6,527 17 2
1901	10,891 17 0
1902	11,326 12 0

Q.

COMPARATIVE STATEMENT of SHIPPING ENTERED and CLEARED from 1898 to 1902.

—	1898.		1899.		1900.		1901.		1902.	
	Ships.	Tonnage.	Ships.	Tonnage.	Ships.	Tonnage.	Ships.	Tonnage.	Ships.	Tonnage.
British—										
Steam	30	94,228	30	100,814	41	155,542	74	248,089	66	228,337
*Sailing	11	6,989	9	6,754	9	4,944	6	4,654	7	5,687
Foreign—										
*Sailing	1	201	4	1,771	3	1 546	2	859	1	419
Total	42	101,418	43	108,639	53	162,032	82	253,602	74	234,443

* Cleared in ballast.

Q1.

GENERAL ABSTRACT of VESSELS which have touched at this PORT and been boarded by HARBOUR MASTER, from JANUARY 1st 1902 to DECEMBER 31st 1902.

Class.	American.		British.		Danish.		Dutch.		French.		German.		Italian.		Norweigan.		Swedish.		Spanish.		Russian.	
	No.	Tons.	No.	Tons.	No.	Tons.	No.	Tons.	No.	Tons.	No.	Tons.	No.	Tons.	No.	Tons.	No.	Tons.	No.	Tons.	No.	Tons.
Vessels or War	—	—	8	28,014	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	1,500	—	—
Mail and Merchant (Steamers and Transports)	—	—	95	299,334	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	4,932	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Merchant sailing Vessels	7	8,242	38	42,419	1	501	1	1,165	2	1,865	3	2,969	5	6,284	29	23,851	5	3,186	—	—	2	1,852
Whalers	1	385	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
	8	8,627	141	369,767	1	501	1	1,165	2	1,865	4	7,901	5	6,284	29	23,851	5	3,186	1	1,500	2	1,852

Tonnage of Men-of-War and Transports...	29,514
„ „ Steamers	304,266
„ „ Sailing Vessels	92,719
Total Tonnage...	426,499
1902 Number of Vessels	199
„ Tonnage	426,499

COLONIAL REPORTS—ANNUAL.

No. 420.

ST. HELENA.

REPORT FOR 1903.

(For Report for 1902, *see* No. 392.)

Presented to both Houses of Parliament by Command of His Majesty.
July, 1904.

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1904.

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No. 420.

ST. HELENA.

(For Report for 1902 *see* No. 392.)

GOVERNOR GALLWEY to MR. LYTTELTON.

The Castle,
St. Helena,
23rd March, 1904.

SIR,

I HAVE the honour to forward herewith the Blue Book of this Colony for the year 1903, together with my Annual Report covering the same.

2. In addition to the usual returns that accompany such Reports, I have added a copy of the Report of the Commissioners on the Fishing Industry. I respectfully request you will sanction that Report being printed for future reference and being considered as part and parcel of my Annual Report.

I have, &c.,

H. L. GALLWEY,
Governor.

---

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ANNUAL REPORT FOR THE YEAR 1903.

I.—FINANCIAL.

(A.) Revenue.

The Revenue reached the total of £13,132, being £9,963 less than that of the previous year. The Revenue collected was less than the amount estimated by £3,388, which is explained by the fact that when the original Estimate was submitted it was not anticipated that the Boer prisoners would have left the Island prior to 1st January, 1903.

The decreases appear under "Customs," "Fees and Fines," "Rent," and "Miscellaneous"; and the increases under "Licenses," and "Interest." Under "Customs" the receipts under all sub-heads declined as compared with 1902. This is attributable to the departure of the prisoners of war and their guards in the latter part of 1902. In nearly all the other cases where shrinkage of Revenue occurred, the same reason was the direct cause of such shrinkage.

The increase under "Interest" is due to the Colony having invested all surplus Savings Bank Funds.

As must always be the case, the principal source of Revenue was the Customs receipts. These amounted to £7,191, being a decrease of £9,436 as compared with the previous year.

In my last year's report I put down £6,000 as being the average annual Customs receipts under normal conditions. My calculation would appear to be a low one, as I am fairly sanguine that the Customs receipts for 1904 will reach the amount collected in the year under review provided that the strength of the present garrison is maintained.

(B.) Expenditure.

The Expenditure for the year amounted to £21,382, the highest reached since 1872; a net increase as compared with 1902 of £2,769.

The principal increases in Expenditure were under "Customs," "Savings Bank," "Police," "Post Office," "Works Extraordinary," and "Gratuities." The increase under "Customs" is due to the grant made to the troops for rebate of duty on beer imported into the Colony during the time the Boer prisoners were interned on the Island. Rebate thus paid

amounted in all to £1,549 5*s.* 9*d.*, of which £1,161 5*s.* 9*d.* was included in the Expenditure of the year under review. The increase under "Savings Bank" was due to the increase of deposits. Interest at the rate of 2½ per cent. per annum is now granted on unlimited sums.

The appointment of a corporal to the Police Force accounts for nearly the whole of the increase under that head. The increase under "Post Office" is due to the Colony being supplied with new postage stamp die and plates. A stock of the new issue of stamps was also obtained during the year. The main item of increase comes under "Works Extraordinary," and is due to additional works being taken in hand during the year in connection with the drainage of private houses and the connecting the same to the main sewer, and also due to a large extent to the cost of a shipment of cypress wood, which was obtained from New Orleans at a cost of £2,674. The increase under "Gratuities" is due to special gratuities having been made to Customs and other officials in connection with the extra work thrown on their shoulders whilst the Boer prisoners were in the Colony.

Of the decreases in Expenditure the most important are:—£1,158 under head of "Public Debt"—due to a lesser instalment being paid to the Imperial Exchequer. £1,000 of the debt was paid during the year under review. This reduces the Public Debt of the Colony on the 31st December, 1903, to £1,000 at no interest.

There were certain savings (£364) effected under "Sanitary Precautions," consequent on the departure of the Boer prisoners. There was a decrease of £731 under "Works Recurrent," due chiefly to over estimation and to savings effected, as compared to 1902.

The Expenditure exceeded the Revenue by £8,250. To meet the outlay of available funds, as mentioned above, in connection with the house drainage and water improvement schemes, it is apparent that some sacrifice is necessary in the shape of stringent economy under other heads. In order to ensure the Colony maintaining a credit balance in future it might become necessary to increase taxation. This, however, should, I think, be a last resource, as there is no doubt the future prospects of the St. Helenians are not bright, there being no regular industry in the Island.

(C.) Assets and Liabilities.

On the 31st December, 1903, there was an excess of assets over liabilities of £6,218, being a decrease in the credit balance of the Colony of £7,529 as compared with the same date of the previous year. The balance of the debt due to the Imperial Government is not included in the liabilities.

(D.) Currency.

No specie was imported during the year under review, but the Imperial Government exported £12,000 to Cape Town.

Government bills on the Crown Agents to the value of £40,947 were granted during the year, for which commissions amounting to £299 were paid.

(E). Financial Returns.

Attached to this report are the following statements:—

(1.) Revenue for the years 1902 and 1903 shewing increases and decreases.—Marked K.

(2.) Expenditure for the years 1902 and 1903 shewing increases and decreases.—Marked L.

(3.) Revenue and Expenditure for the last five years.—Marked M.

(4.) Assets and Liabilities.—Marked N.

(5.) Investments on 31st December, 1903.—Marked O.*

II.—TRADE, AGRICULTURE, AND INDUSTRIES.

(A.) Trade.

I attach a statement marked P shewing the Customs Receipts under all sub-heads for the last five years including the year under review. The presence of the Boer prisoners in the Colony during the years 1900, 1901, and 1902, was the cause of abnormal receipts under every sub-head, and consequently comparisons with these years serve no useful purpose. The receipts for the year under review may be considered as representing normal conditions, and, taking all circumstances into consideration, I consider them satisfactory.

A return marked Q is attached shewing the value of trade for the last five years. The figures for the year under review are not encouraging. I especially refer to the exports, which were practically nil. They consisted of empty casks, iron tanks, hides and wool. There was no export of farm produce of any

* Not printed.

kind. It appears to me that the future welfare of this Island depends upon the export of farm produce, especially potatoes, to South Africa. Shortly after my arrival in the Colony I approached the Union-Castle S.S. Company with a view to a reduction being made in the freight charges on fruit and vegetables to South Africa. The Company courteously responded to my appeal by reducing the freight from 42*s.* per ton to 25*s.* with ten per cent. primage. The result of my successful effort in this direction was not taken advantage of by the farmers even to the extent of one shipment. In my Annual Report for 1902 I gave the reason for there being no export in farm produce during that year as being owing to the large demand for the same due to the presence of the Boer prisoners in the Colony. I was evidently mistaken in my surmise, and can only give as the real reason the want of energy and enterprise on the part of growers generally. I am afraid that the St. Helenian, so long as he can live comfortably, will not look ahead, his motto being "Sufficient unto the day."

The principal goods imported were:—

—	Value.
	£
Oilman's stores	11,356
Drapery and dry goods	8,107
Spirits, wines and beer	7,874
Coal	3,074
Butter	2,494
Sugar	2,494
Flour	2,379
Grain, seeds, &c.	2,213
Beef and pork	2,116
Rice	2,075

(B.) Agricultural Industries and Botanical Stations.

The Government Gardens in Jamestown are the nearest approach to a Botanical Station in the Colony. The soil is very poor, which, added to the fact that the annual rainfall in Jamestown is only seven inches, makes it impossible, with the unskilled labour and small funds available, to attempt more than a careful supervision of the fruit trees in the gardens. The fruit throughout the Island has for the last 22 years been more or less destroyed by the ravages of an insect pest called "ceratitis citriperda." It is supposed to have been imported from South Africa in 1882 in a shipment of grapes. I propose legislating towards the extermination of this pest during the present year (1904).

A considerable amount of tree planting was undertaken in the Government woods. An experiment was also made of planting trees upon the hillside in Jamestown and at the Quarantine Station at Lemon Valley. The former was fairly successful; the latter proved a failure. The greatest enemies to tree planting are the goats. Every blade of vegetation is devoured by these animals as soon as it appears. Even barbed wire fencing proved ineffectual to keep out these destructive animals. About 200 years ago the Governor was petitioned to remedy the evil caused by the wholesale destruction of the ebony trees by the goats. The Governor in Council considered the petition frivolous, saying that the goats were more valuable than the ebony. A remedy for the goat nuisance exists in the Trespass Ordinance, but the absence of a sufficient number of police constables makes it impossible to rigidly enforce the terms of the Ordinance. There is no doubt that tree planting on the waste lands, from 1,500 feet above the sea downwards, can only be successful if the holes for the trees are manured and good soil put in, and if regular watering takes place after planting. All this means money; consequently one's efforts are considerably handicapped, and any great success therefrom cannot well be expected. The profits on the sale of fruit from the Jamestown Government Garden during the year amounted to £17. Dead and fallen trees, sold to inhabitants for firewood, brought in £37 for the same period. The year 1903 was a full average for all crops, such as potatoes, forage, and vegetables. Scarcely any blight made its appearance among the potatoes. This is probably accounted for owing to large importations of new seed.

The hay was far above the average on account of the unusual quantity of rain which fell during the last three months of the year.

All stock did well. The unusual quantity of rain during the spring months caused the pastures to be full of grass. I am told that it is years since the cattle have been in such good condition.

(C.) Fisheries.

Early in the year I appointed a commission to enquire into the state of the fishing industry. I attach the report of the Commissioners, marked S, which speaks for itself. The fishermen, very few in number, control the market and catch only as much fish as they think will enable them to procure a comfortable living.

The remedy proposed by the Commissioners is, unfortunately, not practicable at present as far as the Government is concerned, owing to lack of the necessary funds. There appears, too, some doubt as to whether the fish in these waters are local or for the most part only passing

fish. If the former, there is no doubt that with a little enterprise a very good business could be done by any person setting up a fish-curing factory in the Island. The demand for dried fish in South Africa alone would, I consider, ensure the prosperity of such an undertaking. It would, I think, be a sound move for the Government, if funds were available, to carry out the suggestion of the Committee as to purchasing a launch and boats, and so ensure an ample and continuous supply of fish to the islanders at a small cost. This cannot, however, be attempted at present. I fear, too, that the initial outlay would considerably exceed £2,000, the sum named by the Commissioners.

(D.) Shipping.

Attached is a return, marked R, which shews the number and tonnage of vessels, both steam and sail, which entered and cleared with cargo and in ballast during the last five years. Also a return, marked R[1], which shews the number of vessels which touched at St. Helena, and were boarded by the Harbour Master during the year under review.

III.—LEGISLATION.

There were 12 Ordinanaces enacted during the year, of which the most important were: —

No. 4.—"The Military Lands Ordinance."

All lands acquired for military purposes are vested in His Majesty's Principal Secretary of State for War; and power is given to the officer commanding the troops to perform specific acts thereunder.

No. 7.—"An Ordinance to regulate pensions, gratuities, and other allowances to be granted in respect of offices held in His Majesty's Service in this Colony."

No. 11.—"An Ordinance to make other provision for securing to children in the Island of St. Helena the benefits of Elementary Education."

This Ordinance came into force on January 1st, 1904. The school age limit is from 6 to 14 years. Between these ages no child is exempt, if there is a school within two miles which the child can attend. The employment of children under 13 years of age is forbidden. In addition to the above eight Proclamations were enacted during the year; the most important of which was No. 8 prohibiting the landing or importing of any horned cattle, sheep, and goats from all parts of South

Africa or from Zanzibar on the East Coast of Africa, to St. Paul de Loanda on the West Coast of Africa.

This prohibition is necessary owing to the prevalence of cattle disease in the countries named.

IV.—EDUCATION.

The number of schools in the Colony remained the same as in 1902, viz., eight. There is also a Military School. During the year 571 children were under instruction in the eight schools, being a slight increase over the numbers in the previous year. The actual standard of excellence reached in any one school is not a high one, owing to the inability to obtain teachers who have themselves been brought up to modern methods of teaching.

An Ordinance was enacted early in the year "to secure to children in the Island the benefits of Elementary Education." This Ordinance repealed the old Education Ordinance of 1874, which was not in keeping with ordinary requirements. The new Ordinance made attendance at school compulsory, but owing to the want of funds it was not found practicable during the year to appoint the necessary "attendance officers," who would see that the terms of the Ordinance were rigidly enforced. The Ordinance referred to was eventually repealed by an improved Ordinance, which, however, did not come into force until January 1st, 1904. I look for a great improvement in the Education Department generally, when this new Ordinance becomes law. The standard of excellence must be a low one unless compulsory attendance is enforced. There is one district in the Island without the means of education, except such as may be obtained from a private school opened in Longwood by a lady residing there. This lady has since left the Island. There was a Hussey Charity School at Hutts Gate, which the Trustees of the Charity closed in 1902, their reason being that the income of the Charity had decreased somewhat. The closing of this school is inevitably a loss to the community, and a continued closure cannot but tend to increase vice and crime. I had hoped to re-open this school as a Government School during the year under review, but funds were not available. I made provision in the 1904 estimates for the opening of the school, but it was found necessary to cut down the expenditure for that year to a considerable extent with the result that the school cannot yet be re-opened.

The Government Girls' School occupies the premier position amongst the schools of the Island. There is more methodical work done there, as shewn in the Annual Examination.

This fact is due to the efforts of the Head Teacher, Miss Short, who is most indefatigable and enthusiastic in the carrying out of her duties. She also has the benefit of two assistant teachers, whereas the other Government Schools only have one. There is no doubt that the Head Teacher and his assistant in the other two Government Schools have no easy task set them to teach 100 scholars, approximately the number in each of the schools. This question is again a matter of funds, and I hope that before long it may be possible to remedy the evil. A certificated Head Teacher for the Boys Town School is expected to shortly arrive in the Colony. He will also train pupil teachers—thus supplying a want long felt.

During the year a mass meeting of the ratepayers in the Island was called at my request, in order to ascertain if they would be willing to raise an annual sum of £115—being a rate of 3*d*. in the pound on the rateable value of property—in order to assist the Government in improving the facilities and standard of education in the Colony. My proposal was rejected by a fairly large majority. Curiously enough the colored ratepayers were nearly all in favour of the rate being levied. The want of any form of industrial education is badly felt in the Colony. The absence of skilled labour is particularly noticeable, and is a source of the greatest inconvenience to the Government and the public generally. This year (1904) I am training four boys as apprentices in the following trades:—carpenter, printer, blacksmith and plumber. I trust that in my next Annual Report I shall be able to shew that there has been a decided improvement in education matters generally.

V.—GOVERNMENT INSTITUTIONS.

(A.) Hospitals.

There are two hospitals in the Colony, the Civil Hospital and the Military Hospital; the latter, however, does not come within the scope of this report. The number of patients admitted to the Civil Hospital during the year was 137. There were 12 deaths, *i.e.*, 8·7 per cent., of the total admissions. In three cases, however, the patients were moribund on admission; omitting these the ordinary death rate would be 6·5 per cent.

The principal diseases may be subdivided as follows:—

Disease.	No.	Disease.	No.
Intestinal	12	Enteric fever	2
Beri-beri	9	Eye disease...	18
Tubercle	17	Bone disease	5
Rheumatism	7	Dysentery	4
Nervous system	10	Local injuries	16
Respiratory	10		

The most noticeable feature in connection with the above table is the great decrease in the number of enteric fever cases, there having been 37 such cases in 1902. The Lady Superintendent and her staff of nurses gave, as usual, every satisfaction. For the first time in the history of the Hospital the nursing staff was placed upon a satisfactory footing in 1902, when the staff was fixed at a Lady Superintendent and three nurses. The work that has fallen on the staff since this new arrangement was made, has, I consider, proved that the increased number of nurses is the irreducible minimum consistent with efficiency.

(B.) Savings Bank.

The report of the Manager of the Savings Bank for the year under review shews a satisfactory state of affairs. The number of depositors during the year was 203, or a decrease of 18, as compared with 1902. The amount deposited was £5,129; and £9,743 was withdrawn, as compared with £11,409 and £8,274 respectively in the previous year. These decreases, as the Manager points out, are easily accounted for, and were inevitable: (*a*) the absence of the prisoners of war and their guards; (*b*) the large decrease in the number of persons employed by the Imperial Government and other persons; and (*c*) the fact of eight regular large depositors withdrawing their savings for investment elsewhere.

In my report for 1902 I pointed out that the capital of the bank amounted to £31,747 on the 31st December, 1902. This figure rose to close on £33,000 in January of the year under review, but the large withdrawals during the year caused the figures on the 31st December, 1903, to stand at £27,888. This is exclusive of the interest due for the year.

The increase in withdrawals was also due to the necessity of many depositors being compelled to withdraw part of their savings for want of steady employment.

Against this, however, the value of the moneys invested on the 31st December, 1903 (£29,805) shewed an increase of £2,356 over the amount invested on the same date of the previous year.

The revenue of the bank (£952) exceeded that of the previous year by £195. The expenditure (£807) was in excess of that of 1902 by £32. After paying the Manager's salary for the year of £40, the Colony benefited to the extent of £145 on the year's work. Reviewing the work done by the bank during the year the Manager points out that the deposits were steady from the more prudent of the inhabitants, though they were in much smaller amounts than in many of the preceding years. The increase in withdrawals was naturally to be expected as soon as the internment of the Boer prisoners came to an end. A satisfactory point in connection with the withdrawals is that in the case of some of the larger withdrawals—amounting to probably £5,000—they have been re-invested by the owners on improvements on their landed property.

The "Friendly Benefit Society" withdrew their money in order to re-invest it in landed property at a higher rate of interest than that paid by the Government.

VI.—JUDICIAL STATISTICS.

(A.) Criminal Statistics.

Supreme Court.—At the Quarterly Sessions of the Supreme Court there was one conviction for larceny.

Police Court.—The Police Magistrate reports that the number of cases heard in this Court were less than in 1901 and 1902. This decrease is accounted for by the departure of the Boer prisoners from the Island, and also from the fact that there was less money in circulation during 1903 than in the two previous years; consequently intoxicating liquors were not so heavy a charge on the pockets of the labouring class.

I am glad to say that with one or two exceptions the women do not frequent the public houses. The number of prostitutes in Jamestown appears to be on the decrease. Not a single case of gambling in the public houses came to the notice of the police during the year. On the whole the tone of these houses has somewhat improved since the departure of the prisoners of war.

The Police Magistrate heard 197 cases during the year under review, as compared with 312 in 1902. Convictions:—

Cases.	1903.	1902.
Assaults and other offences against the person	17	33
Malicious injury to property	4	5
Offences against property other than malicious	4	20
Offences against highways, ...	7	13
Other offences such as soliciting, drunkenness, &c. ...	133	177

The above table shews 165 convictions, as compared with 248 in 1902.

(B.) Prisons.

The only gaol in the Colony is situated in Jamestown. The number of prisoners admitted into gaol during the year was 50, as compared with 83 in 1902. There were 45 prisoners discharged during the year, as against 88 in 1902.

The decrease in figures is chiefly due to the departure of the Boer prisoners; but there is no doubt that there was a decided decrease of crime generally.

There were six convicted prisoners in gaol on the 1st January, 1904, and one prisoner awaiting trial.

(C.) Police Force.

The Police Force consists of 1 inspector, 1 corporal, and 7 constables. Two of the latter are employed in the rural districts, leaving 1 corporal and 5 constables for duty in Jamestown. The numerical strength of the Force is inadequate—but the financial state of the Colony will not allow any increase at present. On the occasion of ships-of-war visiting the Island special constables are sworn in, as otherwise the Police would be quite unable to do the work required of them.

The number of cases dealt with by the Police during the year under review was 270, of which 73 were frivolous or of a trivial nature, the remaining 197 being dealt with by the Police Magistrate.

VII.—VITAL STATISTICS.

(A.) Population.

The civil population amounted roughly to 3,500. The births numbered 146 (including 6 still births), as against 165 (including 10 still births) in 1902. 28 per cent. of the births registered were illegitimate. The deaths amounted to 69, as compared with 118 in the previous year.

Emigration exceeded immigration by 63—the figures being 129 and 66 respectively.

The last of the Boer "irreconcilables" left the Colony in June.

(B.) Public Health.

The Colonial Surgeon reports that the state of health of the civil community as indicated by the death-rate for the year under review shows a very distinct improvement, as compared with the previous year.

The total number of deaths in the Colony amounted to 76. Amongst these are included the deaths of 3 seamen, 3 soldiers, and 1 ex-prisoner of war; leaving 69 deaths among the inhabitants proper.

With an estimated population of 3,500 (the strength of the garrison being omitted) the death-rate was 19·7 per thousand inhabitants, as against 34·7 in 1902.*

There is no doubt, as the Colonial Surgeon points out, that the health of the population suffered very considerably from the presence of the Boer prisoners. In 1899, the year before the arrival of the Boers, the death-rate was 17·3 per thousand. During the three years the Boer prisoners were interned in the Island the death-rate among the inhabitants proper averaged 28·4 per thousand. Epidemics of enteric fever and a severe form of influenza, both introduced by the prisoners of war, would partly account for this—but there is no doubt that other diseases increased. The people lived at unaccustomed pressure, and their habits as to eating and drinking were considerably disturbed by the altered conditions. A few cases of beri-beri have been observed amongst the civil population, and these cases, the Colonial Surgeon states, must be regarded as a legacy left by the prisoners. An epidemic of this disease prevailed for many months in the Boer camps, and it is a question whether or not this insidious disease, observed for the

* The percentage of deaths was incorrectly printed in the Report for 1902 as 0·75 ; it should have been 3·47.

first time among the Islanders, has come to stay. It is noteworthy that 33·3 per cent. of the deaths during 1903 were those of children under 2 years of age. In most cases death was caused by disease of the bowel, due very largely to improper feeding and a prevailing ignorance as to the dietetic and hygienic management of children. This could only be counteracted to some extent by the diffusion of a knowledge of the simpler laws of health through school teaching and other ways.

During the first half of the year under review whooping cough was epidemic among the children, very few of whom escaped an attack. Only one death was attributable to this disease, which fact the Colonial Surgeon considers to be somewhat remarkable, seeing that in England whooping cough invariably raises the mortality amongst children to a considerable degree.

Scarlet fever made its appearance in the Island in the month of May. It was brought from the Cape by the men of a detachment of the 3rd Battalion Manchester Regiment. Four cases occurred amongst the troops of this detachment, and during the next few months several cases occurred amongst the civil population, a total of 10 being recorded. There were no deaths from the disease. It is noteworthy that although some of the cases were severe ones and occurred at different centres, the disease did not shew a tendency to spread. Very careful precautions in disinfection and isolation were reverted to where possible—though this could not be the case where the civil population was concerned, owing to the poor and crowded surroundings of most of the patients. The Quarantine Station at Lemon Valley was enlarged and generally improved during the year.

In the month of May of the year under review quarantine for plague on vessels from South African ports was removed after having been continuously in force for fifteen months. It was, however, immediately necessary to impose quarantine on vessels from the same ports on account of small pox having broken out in South Africa. Such quarantine was not removed until October of the same year.

(C.) Sanitary.

The construction of the new main sewer in Jamestown was completed during the year. An entirely new system of house drainage is now in progress, and connections are being made to the new sewer. The Sanitary Inspector in his Annual Report points out that although the greatest care has been taken by the Engineer-in-Charge of the drainage works to place gullies, traps, etc., of such pattern, and in such a manner, that only the ignorant neglect and unclean habits of certain householders can cause their premises to get insanitary, yet in the very short time that the new drainage has existed in certain

premises the old habit of throwing slops on to the pavements in the yards is still continued, and traps are thus allowed to fill up with solid matter. It will take some time before such matters can be satisfactorily remedied—and it depends entirely upon the regular and careful watch kept on such people as to how soon they can be taught to recognise a state of cleanliness as imperative to good health.

The new system of water supply will greatly add to the improvement of the sanitary condition of Jamestown. The new service is carried to the nearest point for domestic purposes, with a high pressure, and constant supply to sinks, baths, etc., so doing away with the old storage tanks found on many premises in the full glare of the sun and partly filled with sediment. Efforts were made during the year to improve the means of transport and staff in connection with the scavenging of Jamestown. There is still much room for improvement in this direction, and, every effort is being made to establish a quicker system of scavenging, which would undoubtedly be beneficial to public health.

There is a considerable amount of overcrowding among the poorer people in Jamestown. Earth floors are very common. The roofs of houses are mostly of iron, and with no ceiling; this causes the small compartments to be very hot and unhealthy. In many cases the living and sleeping room are in one. The Board of Health have taken steps to make such tenements more healthy by ordering ventilators to be placed in the walls and a ceiling or canvas being placed beneath the iron roof.

A serious outbreak of anthrax occurred both at Deadwood and in Jamestown in June among the cattle imported from England by the Imperial Government. The most stringent measures for isolating the cattle and disinfecting the vicinity of the outbreak were observed. The outbreak, however, assumed so serious a character that I found it necessary to act promptly in the matter, and I ordered the immediate destruction of the infected animals together with any who had been in contact with same. This meant the entire stock of Imperial Government cattle, numbering 85. The loss to the Imperial Government was very considerable, but the destruction of the cattle, combined with other measures, was effectual in at once checking the spread of the disease. There was not a single case of infection among the Island cattle. There is a belief among more than one of the leading stock owners in the Island that Island-bred cattle are immune from anthrax.

(D.) Climate.

The Government Meteorological Station is at Hutt's Gate, situated 1,900 feet above the sea.

The mean barometric pressure for the year was 28·14 inches. I do not fancy, however, that barometers are of much, if any, use in the Tropics.

The mean temperature was 60°, the highest temperature in the shade being 77°, this being recorded on the 31st March. The lowest maximum was 63°, on the 23rd October. The lowest minimum was recorded on the 9th September, being 49·6°. There is very little difference between these figures and those recorded in 1902.

The total rainfall for the year was 42·63 inches. This is the highest fall in one year recorded since 1899, when it was 47·31 inches. The maximum fall in one day was 3·17 inches. This was on the 8th February, and is the greatest fall recorded in 24 hours since the present Meteorological Station was established in 1892. It rained on 291 days of the year, as against 257 days in the previous year.

The mean force of the wind for the year was 14 miles. A force of 49½ miles per hour was registered on the 25th October. This force had not been reached since September 25th, 1894.

The direction of the wind for the year was as follows:—

Direction.	Days.
S.E.	179
E.S.E.	122
S.S.E.	55
E.	7

There were two days of calm.

The mean temperature in Jamestown was 74·6°. No record of rainfall was kept; but the annual fall averages about 7 inches.

It is a curious fact that thunder and lightning are comparatively unknown in St. Helena. It would be interesting to know why this should be.

VIII.—POSTAL, TELEGRAPH AND TELEPHONE SERVICES.

(A.) Postal.

The departure of the Boer prisoners and their guards naturally caused a considerable falling off in the Postal Revenue for the year under review, as compared with the two previous years. The revenue amounted to £1,488—whereas in 1902 it was £2,029 (shewn in error in last year's report as £2,099).

The expenditure shewed an increase of £909 over that of 1902—the figures being £1,422 and £513 respectively. In last year's report the expenditure for 1902 was shewn as £429, which was only the local expenditure.

The large increase in expenditure, as compared with the previous year is due to the sum of £823 having been expended in the purchase of a new postage stamp die and a supply of the new issue of stamps. Sea carriage of mails for two years, 1901 and 1902, was also included in the expenditure of the year, amounting to £265. During the year 258 bags of mails and 2,560 parcel post packages were received from the United Kingdom, as against 507 and 4,107 respectively in the previous year.

From Cape Colony and Natal 61 bags of mails and 177 parcel post packages were received, compared with 132 and 32 respectively in 1902.

41,674 letters, newspapers, post-cards and book packets were despatched to the United Kingdom, and 16,241 to Cape Colony and Natal, the figures in the previous year having been 83,262 and 77,595 respectively. 395 parcel post packages were despatched to the United Kingdom during the year and 172 to Cape Colony and Natal, as compared with 1,404 and 714 respectively the previous year.

In addition to the above postal matter, 3,744 registered articles and insured letters passed through the Post Office, being a decrease of 7,679, as compared with 1902.

One registered article was reported as lost during the year.

The following figures give the detail of business done in money orders during the past two years.

—	1902.	1903.
	£	£
To United Kingdom ...	8,425	3,908
To South Africa	895	707
From United Kingdom ...	1,729	568
From South Africa ...	3,793	1,221

The total commission received on money orders during the year was £56, as compared with £109 in 1902. The above comparisons with 1902, as regards both mail matter and money orders, do not serve any very useful purpose, except to show the abnormal condition of affairs during the internment of the Boer prisoners on the Island, the decrease in registered articles being particularly noticeable.

(B.) Telegraph and Telephone.

The Eastern Telegraph Company's staff was increased during the year by five operators, making a total of 27. This was necessary owing to the great increase in the Australian and South African traffic with the United Kingdom. New instruments will shortly be erected by the company, which will result in an augmentation in the speed of transmitting messages by at least 25 per cent. The cost per word to Great Britain and Europe remained at 2*s.* 6*d.* viâ St. Vincent, and 7*s.* viâ Cape Town.

The Colonial Government have no control over the telephone service, which is entirely a military concern. The total mileage of wire amounts to 38 miles administrative system, and 31 miles command system. Five operators and six messengers are employed in the service.

The number of messages dealt with during the year under review amounted to 9,300, of which 2,402 were private messages, the remainder being official. An annual grant of £45 is paid by the Colonial Government towards the maintenance of the service.

IX.—MILITARY FORCES AND EXPENDITURE.

The total establishment of regular troops for the year 1903 was 18 officers and 491 rank and file. The actual strength was 18 officers and 414 rank and file. The regular garrison hardly, however, comes within the scope of this report.

The Local Corps, the St. Helena Volunteer Sharpshooters, was increased during the year to six officers, including a medical officer, and 100 rank and file. The corps was more or less re-organised and placed under the immediate supervision of the officer commanding the troops. From Good Friday to Easter Monday inclusive the corps went under canvas, and were inspected by the officer commanding troops in addition to being instructed in out-post and other duties, and drilled in conjunction with the regulars. It is intended to make this camp an annual affair. An excellent spirit exists among

the majority of the men, but there are naturally a few skulkers who by degrees will be weeded out of the corps. Such must always be the case in a volunteer corps, where the men are not ruled by military law. This body of men would prove most useful in the event of mobilisation, when they would be under the strict control of martial law. The majority are keen rifle shots, and periodical shooting matches are held with the regulars, on which occasions the corps can hold its own. The expenditure in connection with the corps amounted to £140 during the year. The total amount allowed, viz., £175, was not required, as the capitation grant of 35*s.* per man is only drawn for "efficients," that is those members who attend a certain number of drills (24) during the year, and who go through the annual musketry course. An "efficient" has also to attend the annual Easter camp. If, however, he is unavoidably prevented attending, he is allowed to substitute 12 additional drills in lieu thereof. The corps is very much indebted to Captain J. Gellibrand, 3rd Manchester Regiment, acting-adjutant, for the great trouble and interest he took in the corps generally. It was chiefly through this officer's exertions that the Easter camp was instituted—the value of which it is hard to exaggerate in that it gives the volunteers the opportunity of manœuvring with trained troops.

X.—GENERAL OBSERVATIONS.

Roads.

The upkeep of the country roads remained with the Imperial Government—£250 being expended thereon during the year.

No new roads were made, the mileage remaining as last year.

Only very ordinary repairs were attempted by the Colonial Government on the Jamestown roads, as the whole length of them were "up" at one time or other during the year owing to the works in connection with the new drainage and water systems. In fact, on account of these works the Jamestown roads are in a sad state, and it will take about three years and a considerable amount of money to thoroughly put them in order again. A start in this direction is being made this year (1904).

Public Works of Importance carried out in Whole or Part during the Year.

Work in connection with the new drainage and water systems, which were commenced in 1902, made excellent progress.

Main Drainage.—The laying of the main and the necessary branch sewers was all but completed during the year, and form a most complete and modern system. Manholes or inspection chambers of brick and concrete have been built at all bends and changes of direction; the pipes between them being laid to a perfectly true gradient, so that the likelihood of a stoppage in the sewers is reduced to a minimum. Owing to the rapid gradients throughout it has been possible to use pipes of a comparatively small diameter. All pipes throughout the entire system were carefully tested under water pressure before the trenches were refilled; and defective or leaky joints were made good and again tested and proved sound before being covered or concealed. Ample provision has been made for the ventilation of the sewers. Ventilating shafts carried up to a height of from 20 to 24 feet have been provided for this purpose. The following is a summary of the amount of work executed in connection with the main drainage during the year under review.

(*a*) Sewers laid, 2 miles and 50 yards.

(*b*) 79 manholes or inspection chambers built—their depth being from 2′ 4″ to 4′ 9″.

(*c*) 10 ventilation columns erected at the highest points.

97 per cent. of the entire system was completed on the 31st December, 1903.

The laying of the sewers was greatly impeded in consequence of the large amount of rock met with in some of the excavations, the removal of which necessitated continuous blasting. I regret to have to record one fatal blasting accident which resulted in the death of a labourer. This is the only accident of any kind since the commencement of the work, and was not in any way due to the fault of the engineer-in-charge of the works, who had laid down specific instructions regarding blasting, and had such instruction been adhered to the accident could not have happened.

In the early part of the year a considerable scarcity of labour was experienced, which for a time threatened to bring the works practically to a standstill. This state of affairs continued till the beginning of March, when, to remedy the difficulty, I

arranged that a bonus, in addition to their ordinary wage, should be paid to those workmen who attended regularly and were well reported on as good workers. This ensured an ample and immediate supply of labour. The bonus was limited to a maximum of 4d. per diem, payable at the end of six months. At the expiration of that period a sum of £51 was paid in bonus, viz., £40, to men employed on the drainage works, and £11 to those employed on the water works. Labour by then being more plentiful, the bonus was discontinued. £2,183 was expended during the year on the main drainage, making a total of £3,884 expended up to 31st December, 1903.

House Drainage.—Work in connection with house drainage was begun in the month of August, but the work could only be undertaken to a limited extent, as, owing to the main sewerage and water works being still in progress, very few tradesmen and artisans capable of performing this class of work could be transferred from the main schemes. On the 31st December, 1903, the drainage of 19 properties had been completed or was in progress. As in the case of the main drainage the same testing of pipes under water pressure was carried out. A ground plan of each property is prepared shewing distinctly the lines of sewers and the position of all inspection chambers, etc. The system employed in carrying out the house drainage reduces to a minimum the likelihood of any stoppage, and which, if it does occur, can readily be got at. £466 was expended during the year in connection with house drainage, which, with £323 expended in material in 1902, makes a total expenditure of £789 up to the 31st December, 1903.

Waterworks Extension.—Works on the water supply which were practically stopped in November, 1902, for want of sufficient hands, and until a competent man had been obtained from England to do the necessary connections and repairs to house services, were resumed in the month of May, a plumber having arrived. Briefly the amount of work done in connection with the waterworks extension scheme during the year under review was as follows:—

(*a*) 6,326 lineal feet of main taken up and relaid.

(*b*) 2,625 lienal feet of branch mains laid.

(*c*) Two concrete break-of-pressure tanks built.

(*d*) 45 fire hydrants fixed.

On the 31st December, 1903, 87 per cent. of this scheme had been completed.

£806 was expended in this work during the year, making a total of £1,478 up to December 31st, 1903.

House Service Work.—This work was carried on simultaneously with the house drainage. Owing to the worn and

defective condition of existing service piping entirely new piping has to be substituted. Wrought iron tubing coated with Dr. Angus Smith's solution is being used in Government properties instead of lead. Although the tubing is perhaps a little more liable to corrode than lead, the cost is so much less that it was considered well worth while using it. Owners of private property have also the option of using it instead of lead piping, but in the majority of cases they prefer the latter.

A total sum of £332 was expended in connection with house services up to the 31st December, 1903, of which £237 was expended during the year under review. I consider that most satisfactory progress was made generally in the several works above referred to during the year, and great credit is due to Mr. Chisholm, the engineer-in-charge, for the progress made.

Land Grants and General Value of Land.

There were six grants of land during the year, with a total area of 4½ acres, at the rate of 7*s.* 6*d.* per acre per annum. Six transfers of ownership of land were allowed by the Commissioners of Crown lands during the year under review.

The rents for Government properties amounted to £899. The value of land remained as it has been for years past, as far as one could judge.

Rate of Wages and Cost of Living.

The rate of wages remained as in 1902. The same remark applied to the cost of living, which was abnormally high, when compared with the years before the advent of the Boer prisoners.

The staple diet of the people, fish, remained at an excessively high price. I ascertained that when the fish market was glutted, as happened occasionally, and the high price could not be obtained, that the fishermen allowed the fish to spoil rather than accept a lower figure. Mackerel sells at from 1*s.* 6*d.* to 2*s.* a dozen, or 100 per cent. higher than was asked a few years ago.

Departments and Institutions.

The only departments not dealt with under other heads are the printing and public works departments. The printing department got through a fair amount of work during the year; but as the printing staff only consisted of two men, the department can hardly meet ordinary requirements. The work it does perform is always well turned out. Sixteen and a half reams of paper were used during the year.

The expenditure in the Public Works Department amounted to £4,600 during the year. This included the cost of a shipment

of cypress wood from America, amounting to £2,674. It does not, however, include the expenditure under "Public Works Extraordinary," which is dealt with under another head. Referring to the cypress wood mentioned above, this wood is white ant resistant, and the amount imported is estimated to last for about four years. The public have the privilege of buying the timber, and did so to the extent of £151 during the year under review.

Certain improvements were made in the water supply of the Island in different places. The work was performed conjointly with the Imperial Government, and the thanks of this Government are due to the military authorities for their ready co-operation in the work. Fair progress was made during the year in repairs to public buildings, especially in connection with the Civil Hospital and Quarantine Station. In the latter case additional accommodation was also provided.

Below are comparative statements of the receipts and expenditure of the Poor Board and Public Market for the last five years, including the year under review.

Poor Board.

Year.	Revenue.	Expenditure.
	£	£
1899	862	899
1900	857	871
1901	933	855
1902	897	899
1903	829	821

Public Market.

Year.	Revenue.	Expenditure.
	£	£
1899	191	172
1900	238	202
1901	242	173
1902	197	186
1903	124	194

MISCELLANEOUS.

The financial position of the Colony was fairly satisfactory at the close of the year, but this state of affairs cannot long continue owing to the large expenditure necessary under the house drainage and water systems. The money thus expended will in reality only be a loan to householders, but I foresee that

it will be repaid by slow degrees. A maximum term of 15 years is allowed for the repayment by householders to the Government of the cost of the house connections. A very great benefit is likely before long to be conferred on the Colony by the Admiralty undertaking to repair and improve the wharf and sea wall at Jamestown. The need for the work being undertaken at an early date is very pressing; and had not the Admiralty come to the rescue I hardly see how the Colony could have borne the expense, which will not probably run far short of £11,000. Needless to say, this Government is very much indebted to the Admiralty for their timely and useful assistance in a most important matter. Mr. Macfarlane, the Admiralty Civil Engineer at Simonstown, visited the Island in October, and went fully and carefully into the question of repairs and extension of existing works. The works in connection with these probable improvements are of vital interest to the labouring class in this Colony. Before the end of 1904 a large number of hands will be thrown out of work on the completion of the drainage and water works schemes. There will be no immediate nor regular employment for the majority of these men, and therefore the early starting of the sea wall works will be a great boon to a large number of the islanders.

W. J. J. Arnold, Esquire, M.B., was appointed Colonial Surgeon in the month of April, the duties of the office having for two years previous been performed most satisfactorily by Lieutenant-Colonel C. G. D. Mosse, R.A.M.C., P.M.O. Mr. Storer, Head Teacher of the Government Country School, retired on a pension on 1st July, after having served the Government faithfully and well for a period of over 40 years. He retired with the satisfaction of having borne no inconsiderable part in imparting to a large number of scholars, through a great number of years, the best education that was within their reach.

The tendency to emigrate among the inhabitants was noticeable during the year under review. This tendency must inevitably increase, as the outlook for the labouring class is not very promising, seeing that there is no industry in the Colony —and no inclination visible on the part of the people to create one. South Africa is a great market for labour and is near at hand; but the immigration laws in force there are a decided check on emigration from this Colony, as all immigrants must be able to read and write, whereas a very large portion of the St. Helenian poorer classes do not fulfil this condition.

H. L. Gallwey,

Governor

The Castle,
St. Helena,
23rd March, 1904.

K.

The following table gives a comparison of the revenue for 1902 and 1903, classified under the principal heads:—

Head.	1902.	1903.	Increase.	Decrease
	£	£	£	£
1. Customs	16,627	7,191	—	9,436
2. Licenses, taxes, auction dues ...	825	905	80	—
3. Fines, fees of court or office, and reimbursements in aid ...	1,040	861	—	179
4. Post Office	2,039	1,489	—	541
5. Rents of Government property	996	941	—	55
6. Miscellaneous receipts	647	382	—	265
7. Interest	930	1,363	433	—
Total	23,095	13,132	513	10,476

L.

The following table gives the various instances of increase and decrease under the different heads of Expenditure for 1902 and 1903:—

Head.	1902.	1903.	Increase.	Decrease.
	£	£	£	£
Sharpshooters	95	140	45	—
Public debt	2,158	1,000	—	1,158
Pensions	1,029	1,000	—	29
The Governor	969	989	20	—
Colonial Secretary	674	657	—	17
Customs	1,305	1,787	482	—
Legal	321	331	10	—
Savings Bank	628	795	167	—
Police	762	863	101	—
Medical	1,558	1,564	6	—
Education	541	556	15	—
Post Office	513	1,423	910	—
Miscellaneous Services ...	656	292	—	364
Colonial Engineer	191	251	60	—
Public works recurrent ...	2,578	1,847	—	731
Public works extraordinary...	3,845	7,029	3,184	—
Port and Marine	545	524	—	21
Gratuities	—	158	158	—
Gaol	245	176	—	69
Total	18,613	21,382	5,158	2,389

M.

The following table shows the Revenue and Expenditure during the last five years:—

Year.	Revenue.	Expenditure.
	£	£
1899	11,593	11,422
1900	15,391	12,603
1901	24,614	14,927
1902	23,095	18,613
1903	13,132	21,383

N.

Statement of Assets and Liabilities, on the 31st December, 1903.

Liabilities.	Amount.			Assets.	Amount.		
	£	s.	d.		£	s.	d.
Arrears due by Colony	—			In Colonial Chest	249	9	0
Personal	—			With Crown Agents	—		
Pensions	126	12	3	Remittances in transit to C. A.	1,600	0	0
Miscellaneous	2,581	15	0	Advances due to Colony	5,089	12	6
Due to Savings Bank...	27,888	3	3	Arrears of Revenue	7	16	10
Due Crown Agents, amount overpaid on their General Account, 31st December, 1903.	1,129	8	2	Parliamentary Grants...	—		
				Grants in Aid	—		
Due G. P. O. London Postal Account	2	8	7	Mail Service	—		
				Invested for Savings Bank	31,000	0	0
	31,728	7	3				
Excess of Assets over Liabilities	6,218	11	1*				
	37,946	18	4		37,946	18	4

* This does not include the Expenditure for labour under House Drainage, &c., up to 31st December, 1903, of £266 1*s.* 4*d.*, which is recoverable from householders.

NOTE.—Balance of Parliamentary Grant of £1,000 is not included in the Liabilities.

P.

COMPARATIVE STATEMENT of CUSTOMS REVENUE for the past FIVE YEARS, 1899 to 1903.

——	Permits.	Wharfage.	Duty.	Tonnage Dues.	Rent.	Water.	Total.
	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.
1899	42 2 0	1,898 4 1	3,765 1 7	401 7 0	91 5 11	350 5 0	6,548 5 7
1900	49 17 0	2,277 11 5	6,527 17 2	920 12 0	86 4 5	564 3 3	10,426 8 3
1901	40 2 0	2,980 10 3	10,891 17 0	1,410 14 6	112 8 4	429 16 3	15,865 18 4
1902	46 3 0	3,321 3 7	11,326 12 0	1,354 13 0	146 14 3	432 1 3	16,627 7 1
1903	33 18 9	1 840 18 11	4,620 0 10	393 12 0	86 7 4	216 12 6	7,191 10 4

Q.

VALUE OF TRADE, 1899-1903.

Imports from

Years.	United Kingdom.	Colonies.	Elsewhere.	Total.
	£	£	£	£
1899 ...	80,232	7,598	†3,869	91,699
	*9,000			
1900 ...	159,573	8,709	—	168,282
	°15,000			
1901 ...	100,675	4,970	—	105,645
	°16,650			
1902 ...	93,920	6,558	—	100,478
	*15,000			
1903 ...	55,120	3,111	2,228	60,459

° Specie imported. † Whale oil transhipped.

Exports to

Years.	United Kingdom.	Colonies.	Elsewhere.	Total.
	£	£	£	£
1899 ...	3,849	743	—	4,592
	°3,594			
1900 ...	4,075	140	—	4,215
	*3,785			
1901 ...	4,724	—	—	4,724
	*4,035			
1902 ...	1,168	587	—	1,755
	°250			
1903 ...	235	†12,000	—	12,235

° Specie exported by merchants.

† Specie exported by Imperial Government to South Africa.

R.

Comparative Statement of Shipping Entered and Cleared from 1899 to 1903.

—	1899.		1900.		1901.		1902.		1903.	
	Ships.	Tonnage.	Ships.	Tonnage.	Ships.	Tonnage.	Ships.	Tonnage.	Ships.	Tonnage.
British—										
Steam	30	100,814	41	155,542	74	248,089	66	228,337	34	164,944
Sailing	9	6,754	9	4,944	6	4,654	7	5,687	6	3,921
Foreign—										
Sailing	4	1,771	3	1 546	2	859	1	419	1	479
Total	43	108,639	53	162,032	82	253,602	74	234,443	41	169,344

R[1].

GENERAL ABSTRACT of VESSELS which have touched at this PORT, from JANUARY 1st, 1903, to DECEMBER 31st, 1903.

Class.	American.		British.		Dutch.		Austrian.		French.		German.		Italian.		Norwegian.		Swedish.		Russian.		Total.	
	No.	Tons.	No.	Tons.	No.	Tons.	No.	Tons.	No.	Tons.	No.	Tons.	No.	Tons.	No.	Tons.	No.	Tons.	No.	Tons.	No.	Tons.
Vessels of War and Transports.	—	—	8	13,775	—	—	1	2,500	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	9	16,275
Mail and Merchant Steamers and Transports.	—	—	39	137,319	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	436	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	40	137,755
Merchant sailing Vessels	5	10,328	36	52,943	2	2,839	—	—	2	3,323	4	3,857	4	3,833	18	15,736	1	485	2	2,323	74	95,067
Whalers	2	529	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	2	529
Total ...	7	10,857	83	204,037	2	2,839	1	2,500	2	3,323	5	4,293	4	3,833	18	15,736	1	485	2	2,323	125	250,226

Tonnage of Men-of-War and Transports...	16,275
„ „ Steamers	137,755
„ „ Sailing Vessels	96,196
Total Tonnage...	250,226

1902 Number of Vessels	199
„ Tonnage	426,499

S.

Report on the Fishing Industry.

St. Helena,

8th May, 1903.

Sir,

We have the honour to state that in compliance with your letter of the 4th March last, the Commissioners appointed by His Excellency the Governor met and obtained evidence (*a*) "on the reasons for the present unsatisfactory state of the Fishing Industry," and (*b*) "our opinion as to the best way of remedying the evil," and we beg to report thereon as follows:—

2. The initial difficulty having been overcome by the ready assistance given us by Mr. James Boyd of the Customs Department, who kept a book and noted for a period of thirty days the number of boats and men arriving with the quantity and different kinds of fish each morning; this work compelled our assistant to be out on the landing place an hour before the fishermen could enter the town, as the line gates are open at 5 a.m. The record is only as regards the fish brought to the wharf for sale in the market, and does not in any way give a record of the fish caught along the coast line and taken direct to the country. The quantity of fish brought to Jamestown during the 30 days in March and April is herewith given, viz.:—

Fish.	Quantity.
	Dozens.
Mackerel...	918
Bull's eyes	384
Old wives	40
Silver fish	8
Stoney brass	22
Soldiers	3
Mixed cavally, jacks congers, &c.	168
	No.
Albicore, weighing from 40lbs. to 150lbs. each	101
Barracouta	6
Bonito	5
Coal fish	2
Yellow tail	10
Sword fish	1
Porpoise	1
Sharks	10
Turtle (Weight 312lbs)	1
	Dozens.
Stumps	32½

The prices set opposite the daily sales were given to us by the police, who had been on night duty and were present at the market building each morning. The ruling price for albicore was sixpence for a slice weighing about 1¼ lbs.; this is about 20*s.* for each albicore on the average, and is at least 400 to 500 per cent. higher than previous to the internment of the prisoners of war. As regards the price of the mackerel, the increase is still more marked, and they (except on three days) realised 2*s.* a dozen, or 1,200 per cent. higher than formerly. The other fish were much in the same proportion, and the market was only a little more than half supplied. The total amount of money received for 30 days was at the lowest estimate £265 14*s.*, which gave to each man engaged in the boats 8*s.* per day. The estimate for the year for fish is therefore £3,188 8*s.* We should have been able to have given the exact figures, had the Market Committee or their clerk attended to the collection of the fee of 5 per cent., authorised by the Governor in Council, but owing to the laxity of the market authorities the full return of 5 per cent. was not collected, the reason being herein-after referred to. Upon the sum last mentioned the Market Committee might very reasonably have received under the Market Rules for the use of the market at least £150 a year, perhaps more. It appears the fish market is only credited with the following fees for 1902:—

Month.	Amount.		
	£	*s.*	*d.*
January	1	19	5
February and March ...	4	4	8
April	2	5	8
May	2	14	3
June and July	3	12	11
August	1	16	4
September		17	10
October	2	3	11
November	2	2	3
December		15	0
	22	12	3

The reason for so small an amount being credited to the market is that the collection of the 5 per cent. is left to an old man, who does not appear at the market till 7 a.m., when very little fish remains unsold, all, or very nearly all, having been disposed of between 5 a.m. and 7 a.m.; and the payment he receives for collecting the dues is half-a-crown per month, hence the collector takes no interest in his work. If the 5 per cent. is to be collected at all, the collector should be fairly well remunerated for the work and he should be at the landing place not later than 5 a.m. daily, otherwise the Market Committee

will in time receive nothing. At the same time we wish to observe that for the use of the small iron structure, where the fish is sold, the charge of 5 per cent. is too high and is out of proportion to its value or the convenience received by the fishermen, as £50 is the outside value of the structure.

3. Of the 11 licensed fishing boats only two are really well equipped whale boats, the others are more or less unseaworthy, they are manned by a class who do not depend on fishing for a living. In some of the boats the single men only want to make enough money to last for two or three days, and when that is spent they make a fresh start. Some of the boats are very small and are engaged mostly catching mackerel in the bay. They are manned by bonâ fide fishermen, who occasionally remain on shore for a day's work or go into the passage boats for employment, consequently there is no fish at times. Excepting the men who own and work in the two whale boats referred to, and by whom the fish market is ruled the others are indifferent and have no energy to better their condition. All the fishermen who have been examined state that the fish is scarce and they would catch more if they could. The reason is they go to leeward and constantly over the same ground because the sea is calm there. It is plain that more fish could be taken if they were not so idle. They very seldom go to the windward part of the Island, where private parties go for amusement and return with plenty of fish. Yet, by the high price they obtain, they can afford to make it appear they make a very poor living, and so they minimise the amount of money received. The facts, however, are different to their statements, and we can only come to one conclusion, that a "ring" has been formed to bring in just sufficient fish as will give a big day's wages to each boat. The eleven boats employ about 34 men, and the fish are caught with hook and line only.

4. The open boats are not suited for fishing to windward, and when they are worn out and no others are imported to replace them, unless some improvement takes place, greater hardship will, without doubt, fall on the inhabitants. We therefore respectfully venture to submit our opinion to remedy the evil, but the first requisite is money. If that is forthcoming the first necessity is a good steam launch and three life boats of about ten tons each. These boats should be decked, coppered, and equipped for fishing in deep water, say, from 80 to 120 fathoms, and able to withstand unfavourable weather. The boats should be towed to their anchorage and left till the following morning, when the launch should bring the fish from two boats with the third boat in tow to discharge all fish at the wharf, the boat's crew having a run on shore for the day and to be ready to return to relieve the second boat, and so on. Each boat's crew would have one day on shore in every three. In the launch the men would be under the person in charge,

and in the boats the foreman should be made to keep a record of everything, and the crews paid at a given salary per month, say, at the rate of 3*s*. per day, viz.:—

—	Per Annum.
	£
1 Engineer	120
4 men in launch at 3*s*. say	220
12 men in 3 boats at 3*s*.	660
Incidentals, Gear &c.	150
	1,150
For the launch and 3 boats say	2,000
Total	3,150

The initial outlay is all that is required, viz., £2,000, as it is estimated the daily catch and sale of the fish would amply refund all outlay. All fish to be the property of the boat proprietors, who would most likely appoint a committee to carry out the details, and arrange for a sinking fund for the launch and boats. We would also suggest that each boat should be furnished with a trammel net. One was used by the captain of one of His Majesty's ships a few years ago, and was found to answer admirably, and another was imported by the present harbour master. These nets are especially valuable on account of the ease with which they can be set and taken up, two men being sufficient for either operation.

We have, &c.,

J. HOMAGEE,
President.

ROBT. R. BRUCE,
Harbour Master.

G. LIDDY,

W. H. MARRIOTT.

COLONIAL REPORTS.

The following, among other, reports relating to His Majesty's Colonial Possessions have been issued, and may be obtained from the sources indicated on the title page :—

ANNUAL.

No.	Colony.	Year.
399	Fiji	1902
400	Lagos	"
401	British Solomon Islands	1902–1903
402	Cocos-Keeling Islands	1903
403	St. Vincent	1902–1903
404	Grenada	1903
405	Southern Nigeria	1902
406	Straits Settlements	
407	Trinidad and Tobago	1902–1903
408	Basutoland	"
409	Northern Nigeria	1902
410	Malta	1902–1903
411	St. Lucia	1902
412	Mauritius	"
413	British Guiana	1902–1903
414	Jamaica	"
—	Bahamas (Printed separately as [Cd. 1,985]) ...	1902
415	Falkland Islands	1903
416	Leeward Islands	1902–1903
417	British Honduras	1903
418	Bermuda	"
419	Weihaiwei	"

MISCELLANEOUS.

No.	Colony.	Subject.
15	Canada	Legal Status of British North American Indians.
16	Miscellaneous Colonies ...	Medical Reports.
17	Gilbert and Ellice Islands ...	Report for 1896–1900.
18	Hong Kong	Operations in New Territory during 1900.
19	Miscellaneous Colonies ...	Medical Reports.
20	Weihaiwei	General Report.
21	Dominica	Report on Caribs.
22	Seychelles	Report on Para Rubber.
23	Dominica	Roads and Land Settlement.
24	Grenada...	Land Settlement in Carriacou.
25	Hong Kong	Bubonic Plague, 1903.
26	Northern Nigeria	Mineral and Vegetable Products.

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1904.

COLONIAL REPORTS—ANNUAL.

No. 448.

ST. HELENA.

REPORT FOR 1904.

(For Report for 1903, *see* No. 403.)

Presented to both Houses of Parliament by Command of His Majesty.

June, 1905

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1905.

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No. 448.

ST. HELENA.

(For Report for 1903, *see* No. 403.)

GOVERNOR GALLWEY to MR. LYTTELTON.

The Castle,
St. Helena,
23rd February, 1905.

SIR,

I HAVE the honour to transmit to you herewith the St. Helena Blue Book for the year 1904, together with my Annual Report covering the same.

2. Under the head of "Vital Statistics" I have pointed out the incorrect figures in connection with the population of the Colony which were given in the Blue Books for the years 1902 and 1903.

I have &c.,

H. L. GALLWEY,
Governor and
Commander-in-Chief.

1000 Wt 23792 6/05 D & S 5 21218 A 2

ANNUAL REPORT FOR THE YEAR 1904.

I.—FINANCIAL.

(A.) Revenue.

The total revenue collected during the year under review amounted to £14,102 15*s.* 9*d.*, being £728 15*s.* 9*d.* above the original estimate and £971 over the receipts of the previous year.

The increase is chiefly attributable to the disposal of the entire stock of the Victorian issue of postage stamps, which realised £817 odd. Other causes of excess were increases in the Customs of £895, chiefly under the sub-head "Spirituous Liquors," due to increased imports of beer in hogsheads; and under "Wharfage," largely owing to building material and cables imported by the Eastern Telegraph Company.

On the other hand, there were shortfalls of revenue below the estimate, *e.g.*, (*a*) only £741 was refunded by householders for cost of house connections under the Drainage and Water Works Ordinances, whereas it was anticipated that £1,500 would be so recovered; (*b*) surplus funds in the hands of the Crown Agents, on which the Colony received interest, were refunded to the Colony and expended for general purposes; (*c*) a decrease of £65 in receipts on account of commissions on bills of exchange. The surmise I made in my Annual Report for 1903 that the Customs receipts would exceed £6,000 in 1904 has proved correct, the total amount being £7,140.

(B.) Expenditure.

The total expenditure for the same period was £18,551 12*s.* 8*d.*, as against £21,382 14*s.* 8*d.* in 1903. The expenditure actually exceeded the estimate by £623 11*s.* 8*d.*, although when the estimate was framed no provision was made therein to pay off the balance of £1,000 of the loan made to the Colony, without interest, by the Imperial Exchequer in 1872. This balance was, however, paid off and caused the excess in expenditure over estimate mentioned above. In reality the expenditure was £376 8*s.* 4*d.* below the estimate as framed. The deficit on the year's transactions therefore amounted to £4,448 16*s.* 11*d.*, solely due to the large expenditure which the Colony had to face in connection with the new drainage and water systems in Jamestown. The payment of the balance of the debt referred to above was the only important excess of expenditure over the estimate. On the other hand, the principal savings effected were:—(*a*) pensions, £33. Three pensioners died during the year, and two were added to the list (*b*) Customs, £153, under rebate of wharfage on coal to His Majesty's ships. (*c*) Medical, £115. Savings under "Provisions," and office of nurse being vacant part of the year. (*d*) Education, £92.

Office of head master to Boys' School being vacant part of the year. Other casual savings amounted to £106.

(C.) Assets and Liabilities.

On the 31st December, 1904, the assets of the Colony amounted to £35,990 10*s.* 2*d.*, and the current liabilities were £31,823 5*s.* 9*d.*, showing an excess of assets over liabilities of £4,167 4*s.* 5*d.*, a decrease of £2,051 6*s.* 8*d.* in the credit balance of the Colony as compared with the previous year. Only a very small portion of this £4,167 4*s.* 5*d.* is available for current expenditure, as no less a sum than £3,876 9*s.* 2*d.* is due by householders, under the Drainage and Water Works Ordinances, for the cost of the house connections and water services of private properties.

(D.) Currency.

Government bills on the Crown Agents amounting to £29,477 7*s.* 1*d.* were granted during the year under review, as against £40,947 in 1903. The commissions paid on same amounted to £221 12*s.* 11*d.* (£299 in 1903), out of which sum, however, £73 12*s.* 6*d.* was paid to the Imperial Government in remittance charges.

There was no import of specie during year, and the export thereof amounted to only £250.

(E). Financial Returns.

The following financial statements are attached to this report:—

(1.) Revenue for the years 1903 and 1904, showing increases and decreases—marked K.

(2.) Expenditure for the years 1903 and 1904, showing increases and decreases—marked L.

(3.) Revenue and expenditure for last 5 years—marked M

(4.) Assets and liabilities—marked N.

II.—TRADE, AGRICULTURE, AND INDUSTRIES.

(A.) Trade.

The Customs receipts under all sub-heads during the year amounted to £7,140 11*s.* 10*d.*, being a decrease of £50 18*s.* 6*d.* as compared with the previous year. I consider these figures fairly satisfactory. Attached to this report is a statement, marked P, giving the Customs revenue for the last five years, including the year under review. The decreases come under the headings "Permits," "Duties," "Tonnage," and "Water."

There was a falling off in home consumption of 798 gallons of spirits, 593 gallons of wine, and 135 dozen bottles of ale. The decrease in tonnage dues is equal to about 1,000 tons cargo less in the imports and exports of goods; and as regards water, probably 400 tuns less were supplied owing to the falling off in the number of His Majesty's ships and other vessels calling at the port of Jamestown.

The increase of £266 odd under "Wharfage" is principally due to the imports of cable and plant by the Eastern Telegraph Company, and to the increase in the number of hogsheads of beer imported. There were 1,082 hogsheads of beer imported during the year under review, as against 767 in the previous year. There is a wharfage charge of 3*s.* on each hogshead. The Supervisor of Customs considers that this excess may be inferred owing to the fact that since April last a large percentage of the troops of all ranks received 6*d.* per diem in excess of their previous pay. I attach a return, marked P, showing the value of trade for the last five years. Only £90 worth of farm produce was exported during the year. Other exports included ox hides, £180; wool, £40; and sheep skins, £15. These figures serve to show that the island is practically without an export trade. The total value of the imports was £75,987, being an increase of £15,519, as compared with 1903. Nearly the whole of this increase, however, was taken up in cable and plant imported by the Eastern Telegraph Company, the cost of cable alone amounting to £15,270.

The principal imports were:—

Articles.	Value.
	£
Telegraph cable	15,270
Oilman's stores	12,605
Drapery and dry goods	7,625
Beer	4,597
Flour	2,829
Sugar	2,734
Butter	2,614
Coal	2,400
Hardware	2,374
Rice	2,362
Spirits	1,861
Cigars, cigarettes, and tobacco ...	1,852
Grain and seed	1,794
Wines	1,789
Beef and pork	1,690
Leather	1,641
Furniture	1,635

There is practically no difference between the figures of 1903 and 1904, either as regards Customs revenue or value of trade (not including the telegraph cable).

So long as the garrison remains at the present strength I consider that the following figures represent a nominal year:—

	£
Customs revenue	7,000
Value of imports	60,000

(B.) Agricultural Industries and Botanical Stations.

The Colony still remains without an industry. There is, however, some hope that a company may shortly be formed with a view to working the flax plant. A number of gentlemen in London, as also an exploitation in Johannesburg, approached the Government with a view to starting the industry referred to. No definite decision appears to have been yet arrived at as far as my knowledge goes. Flax thrives in St. Helena as does the Furcroea aloe, from which excellent fibre is obtained. Samples of both these products have been sent home and have been well reported on. Some years ago a company did start operations, but failed, chiefly owing, I understand, to unbusinesslike methods. On the other hand, the Director of the Royal Gardens, Kew, informed me, in reply to a communication I addressed to him on the subject, that he considered the flax plant (*Limum usitatissimum*) "quite unsuitable for cultivation within the tropics." Sir. Thiselton Dyer also gave his opinion that "no useful purpose would be served by attempts to establish the industry in St. Helena." The highlands of St. Helena possess a climate that is in no sense tropical. The sun is never really too hot. In fact, it is difficult to believe that St. Helena is in the tropics when once one reaches the high grass lands.

Early in the year I called together a meeting of all persons interested in fruit growing, with a view to deciding on the best methods to be employed in making an effort to eradicate the insect pest known as the "peach fly" (ceratitis citriperda), which has prevented any progress being made in fruit growing for the last 23 years. The meeting were generally of opinion that the enactment of an Ordinance treating with the evil would be a move in the right direction. I accordingly enacted an Ordinance (No. 7 of 1904) entitled "An Ordinance for the extermination of the fly (ceratitis citriperda) known as the peach fly." The Ordinance compels persons owning fruit trees to destroy all maggot-infested fruit. It prohibits the sale of fruit in which the maggot has developed, and it further prohibits the exportation of fruit from those countries where the fly exists. The Ordinance provides for penalties against offenders; and inspectors were appointed under the Ordinance with a view to enforcing the provisions thereof. As the Ordinance was only enacted in October, it is not yet possible to say if it is a success or otherwise. I have, however, been

informed that fruit owners who hitherto never attempted to sell their peaches, but allowed the fruit to fall on the ground and breed maggots, have been cutting their trees down. As such trees were the ones that assisted the fly to do the most harm, it is to be hoped that the action of the owners thereof may prove beneficial.

The Government imported a large number of pear, apple, plum, and other fruit trees from the Cape during the year, which were sold to the public. The trees are almost without exception in the most flourishing condition. There is no doubt that fruit trees imported from South Africa thrive better than those imported from England. Some very useful efforts were made during the year by the Government foresters in tree planting, including trees on each side of the road for a considerable distance between Plantation and Ladder Hill. The majority of these trees look most promising, and in a few years the appearance of the road in question will be generally improved when the trees attain a respectable height. Similar efforts to grow trees in this particular region have been made for many years, but until now have been completely unsuccessful. The authorities at Kew kindly supplied this Government with the seed of a large number of trees and shrubs for experimental purposes. I distributed the seeds to the several land owners I considered would take an interest in rearing the same, but I regret to say that the results were very disappointing, the only seeds that gave any real satisfaction being the eucalyptus species, of which there were many varieties. There were one or two other exceptions. The Commissioner of Agriculture in the West Indies was good enough to supply this Government, free of cost, with a quantity of cotton seed for experimental purposes. This seed was distributed, together with instructions how it was to be treated. It is too early yet to report on the result of the experiment. There does not appear, however, to be any doubt that cotton would thrive in certain parts of the island, but sufficient level ground does not exist. I am afraid, too, that the cost of labour, and the unsatisfactory water supply, would prevent the growing of cotton in small quantities to be a profitable undertaking. There is, unfortunately, no botanical authority in the island, and consequently any efforts to raise trees and shrubs can only be very experimental. The cost and difficulty of watering young trees is also a decided bar to successful rearing, even by amateurs. The sale of fruit from the Government garden in Jamestown produced £18 odd during the year under review. Trees to the value of £19 were sold to the public for firewood during the same period. The year 1904 was unusually favourable to agriculture. The usual dry weather from November to March, entailing shortness of food for stock and scarcity of water, was for the second year in succession conspicuous by its absence. The hay crops at the beginning of the year were the most abundant known for years, and were generally

secured in good condition. Cattle thrived well during the year. Potatoes were fairly plentiful, but I understand that the quality was poor. It has been suggested that potato growers would do well to try some of the new disease-resisting kinds. It appears that St. Helena potatoes do not now fetch the price they used to at the Cape, as since the war in South Africa that country is so well served that it can grow its own potatoes.

(C.) Fisheries.

No attempt can be made by this Government to develop the fishing industry until such time as the finances of the Colony are in a more flourishing condition. An ex-Boer stated his intention to start a fish-curing factory at Ruperts. I am not aware that any progress has been made in the project, nor do I know from what source the necessary capital is to be obtained.

(D.) Shipping.

Attached to the report are two returns, marked R and S, respectively, one being a general abstract of vessels which touched at the port of Jamestown during the year under review, and the other a comparative statement of shipping, entered and cleared, during the past five years, including the year under review.

The number of vessels that touched at St. Helena during the year was 107, the lowest on record, being 18 less than in the previous year. The total tonnage of the vessels, however, shows an increase of 3,843 tons over 1903. This increase was caused by the arrival of five war-ships and transports over the arrivals under those heads in the previous year.

It was generally supposed that when the island was once connected by cable with the outside world that the cases of ships calling for telegraphic orders would greatly increase, and thereby add to the prosperity of the Colony. This has unhappily not proved to be the case, only five vessels calling for that purpose during the year.

III.—LEGISLATION.

Of the seven Ordinances enacted during the year under review, the most important were:—

No. 2.—"Repeal of Laws Ordinance." 26 old Ordinances, together with five Orders in Council and two Proclamations, made between the years 1839 and 1902, having become unnecessary, were repealed. There is no properly compiled volume of the laws of St. Helena, nor can such a compilation be attempted at present owing to want of funds. The removal therefore of obsolete and superfluous Ordinances tend to make it less difficult for the public to become acquainted with the laws actually in force.

No. 6.—"The Drainage Ordinance." This Ordinance repealed Ordinances No. 9 of 1902 and No. 3 of 1904, and is in every way more comprehensive than the repealed Ordinances. It provides for the repayment by householders to the Colonial Government of the cost of the drainage of private properties. At least one-fifteenth of the principal must be paid every year for 15 years. After the expiration of one year from the date that the Drainage Authority notifies in writing to the owner that the work of laying the drainage to his property is complete, interest at the rate of 2½ per cent. per annum is charged on such portion of the principal that remains outstanding at the end of the year. Further, this rate of interest is increased to 3½ per cent. per annum after the expiration of six years from the date of the Drainage Authority's notification to the owner.

By adopting this system of annual payments the probability of a number of properties being thrown on the Government's hands, through confiscation for non-payment of principal, is reduced to a minimum.

No. 7.—"The Peach Fly Ordinance." This Ordinance is referred to as to its aims and working under the head of "Agricultural Industries and Botanical Stations."

In addition to the Ordinances there were three Proclamations issued during the year, two of which were in connection with the neutrality of His Majesty the King, and setting forth certain rules and regulations to be observed during the continuance of hostilities between the Empires of Russia and Japan. Among the Regulations issued was one under Section XV. of the "Water Works Ordinance, 1902," by which householders were called upon to repay to the Colonial Government the cost of the water services to their private properties within a maximum period of three years, one-third of the principal at least to be paid each year. After the completion of one year, interest at the rate of 2½ per centum per annum to be charged on any portion of the cost remaining unpaid at the end of each year.

IV.—EDUCATION.

The number of schools in the Colony was increased during the year by one, caused by the re-opening of the Hussey Charity School at Hutt's Gate, which had been closed for over a year owing to lack of funds. The nine schools are as follows:— four Government, three Hussey Charity, and two Benevolent Society. The total number of scholars attending the schools was 646 of which 325 were boys. Of the total given, 302 scholars were taught in the Government Schools. The attendance at all the schools considerably improved during the year under review. This was consequent upon the enforcement of a new Elementary Education Ordinance which came into force on January 1st, 1904. The Ordinance provides for compulsory attendance at school of all children between the ages of 6 and 14 years. It also prohibits the employment of children under the age of 13 years, and lays down certain conditions under which children who have attained the age of 13 years may be employed. The Inspector of Schools, the Reverend Canon Porter, reports that the result of the satisfactory working of the Ordinance referred to has relieved teachers of a great deal of anxiety and worry, by making the general work more even, whilst it has ensured for these children who formerly were wont to play truant an elementary education such as is within their reach. The Inspector also remarks that some of the scholars who made the most marked improvement and progress were amongst those who, before the passing of the compulsory attendance Ordinance, it was most difficult to bring to school. Formerly a School Board existed only in name, without being of any practical use in either furthering the education of the children or of superintending the running of the several schools. Under the new Ordinance an efficient Board, presided over by the Governor, was appointed, in addition to a School Inspector and an Attendance Officer. The Board has proved itself to be a most useful body; and it is to a great extent owing to the exertions of the members thereof, to whom my thanks are due, that the working of the provisions of the Ordinance have proved so satisfactory. The Board meet every month, and oftener when necessary. My thanks are particularly due to the Reverend T. Aitken, Honorary Secretary of the Board, whose duties as such incur a considerable amount of clerical labour. Mr. Aitken's services are given gratuitously, there being no salary attached to the post. As the Inspector points out, the elementary instruction imparted in the schools is not of a superior order; indeed, it is of a crude form, and nothing approaching the excellence of elementary instruction elsewhere. The method of instruction employed in most of the schools is chiefly "cram," which does not tend to impart true knowledge in any subject, nor is it likely to

exercise the intelligence of the scholars. In short, to use the School Inspector's own words: "There is lacking in these schools a system of definite oral instruction." This has always been the case, except perhaps in the Government Girls' School and in the Government Boys' School, since the arrival in the Colony during the year of a certificated teacher from England. The head teachers of the schools have always been severely handicapped in the large number of classes or grades allotted to their superintendence. The modern fashion is to teach by word of mouth and not by text book. Indeed, the small text book in the hands of an elementary school boy is a puzzle. The teaching staff, especially in the Government Schools, as at present constituted, is so small in proportion to the number of classes that it is impossible to give continuous oral instruction. *Experentia docet.* On the 1st March, 1905, an entirely new scheme will come into force as far as the Government Schools in Jamestown are concerned. The Boys', Girls', and Infants' Schools as now constituted will cease to exist. Under the new scheme the children will be divided into three sections—infants, juniors, and seniors. Each section will be a mixed section in a school of its own. By this method the number of classes will be reduced from 19 to about 8. Each teacher will have about half the number of classes to look after, and so will be better able to concentrate his attention, with the result that the several subjects dealt with will be more likely to be taught intelligently. The "oral" system will be introduced and the use of text books entirely abolished. The new scheme is being organised from suggestions made by Mr. Tucker, the lately appointed Head Teacher to the Government Boys' School. It has the full approval of the School Board and of the School Inspector. A detailed syllabus of work for the year in each subject, and for each class, will be drawn up. I am confident that in my next annual report I shall be in a position to report very favourably on the working of the new scheme. There were 58 prosecutions under the Education Ordinance of parents for the non-attendance of their children during the year under review. Before any prosecutions are undertaken the Attendance Officer personally visits the homes of the absentees in order to ascertain if a satisfactory explanation is forthcoming for the non-attendance reported.

The greatest handicap against the introduction of improvements in the education of the children of St. Helena is the want of funds. The existing schools are overcrowded as it is, and yet the building of class rooms is prohibited for lack of the necessary funds. At least two more schools are required in order to avoid children being called upon to walk very considerable distances to and from school, up and down steep hills, in all weathers. Under the Ordinance children living over two miles from a school are not compelled to attend,

whereas in the country districts a large number of children, from seven years upwards, walk four or five miles to school on most days of the week. This eight or ten miles walk a day in a wet climate is not conducive to promote the popularity of education among such children. The Government, however, are powerless in the matter. Indeed, if it was not for the great assistance rendered by the Hussey Charity and Benevolent Society Schools the means at the Government's disposal would only allow of about 300 children receiving the benefits of elementary education.

There is pressing need for the means of providing Secondary Education to the children in the Colony. This, however, must I fear remain as a castle in the air for some time to come.

V.—GOVERNMENT INSTITUTIONS.

(A.) Hospitals.

There were 112 admissions to the Civil Hospital during the year. Of these, 66 were males and 46 females. There were 3 deaths—giving a mortality of 2·68 per cent. of the total admissions, as compared with 8·7 in 1903.

The Colonial Surgeon points out that the number of admissions during the year was smaller than would otherwise have been the case, owing to the fact that only one ward was in occupation for some months. This was necessary whilst the new scheme of drainage and water supply was being carried out. These works were completed during the year under review, give the greatest satisfaction, and have effected a great improvement in the sanitation of the hospital, and have further added very considerably to the convenience of the nursing staff. Another great improvement was effected by the erection of a verandah, with doorways to open thereon from each ward. As Dr. Arnold points out, it will now be possible to treat in the open air, with great advantage, many cases, both medical and surgical; and the verandah is already greatly appreciated by all convalescent patients. There were about 1,000 attendances at the hospital of out-patients.

The following is a table of the principal diseases in 1904 and 1903:—

Principal Diseases in 1904 *and* 1903.

Disease.	Number.	
	1904.	1903.
Intestinal	10	12
Beri-beri	2	9
Tubercle	9	17
Nervous system	3	10
Respiratory	3	10
Enteric fever	8	2
Eye disease...	3	18
Bone disease	8	5
Dysentery	9	4
Local injuries	12	16

The decrease in the number of cases of beri-beri is a satisfactory sign.

Miss Williams, the Lady Superintendent, was compelled through serious illness to relinquish her duties for several weeks in the earlier part of the year. The two remaining members of the nursing staff admirably carried out their duties under trying circumstances till in part relieved by the arrival of a lady (Mrs. Ellis) from England, who acted temporarily as Lady Superintendent. My thanks are due to Mrs. Ellis for her ready assistance, she having placed her services gratuitously at the disposal of the Government. Mrs. Ellis' sea passages to and from the Colony were paid by the Government, although she was quite prepared to pay them herself if necessary. My thanks are also due to Miss Hart for coming from South Africa and acting as a nurse when the staff was below its complement. Miss Hart, too, gave her services gratuitously, and also paid her own passages.

Two nurses arrived during the year to fill vacancies. The nursing staff carried out their duties in the most satisfactory manner.

(B.) Savings Bank.

The annual statement of the Savings Bank, as furnished by the Manager, for the year under review may be considered satisfactory.

The number of depositors decreased by 13, some having left the island and others having closed their accounts owing to dullness of trade. The withdrawals during the year were £4,543 19*s.* 1*d.* less than in the previous year. The amount remaining in the Treasury on the 31st December, 1904, was £28,097 15*s.* 8*d.*, being £209 12*s.* 5*d.* in excess of the reserve on the same date of the previous year.

The market value of the invested capital on the 31st December, 1904, was £29,504 8*s.* 5*d.*, which returned £1,070 1*s.* 10*d.* interest. This interest exceeded the expenditure of the Bank (Manager's salary, £40, and interest to depositors, £695 15*s.* 7*d.*) by £334 6*s.* 3*d.*, and was also £189 5*s.* more than in 1903.

VI.—JUDICIAL STATISTICS.

(A.) Criminal Statistics.

Supreme Court.—There were four convictions at the Quarterly Sessions during 1904, viz.:—One common assault, two thefts, and one assault occasioning actual bodily harm.

Police Court.—The number of cases heard in this Court during the year under review was 217, as against 197 in the previous year. The majority of the cases, exclusive of those under the Education Ordinance, were for drunkenness, using obscene language, and common assault. There were 58 prosecutions under the Education Ordinance by the School Board Officers; the majority of the defendants were convicted. There were no convictions for gambling during the year, or against the good order of any of the public houses, nor was there a single case against a sailor under the Merchant Shipping Act during the same period. Ten search warrants were issued in cases of theft, and in only two cases were there no convictions. The number of prostitutes does not appear to have increased, and the Police Magistrate reports a slight decrease in the number of charges against those of the worst kind.

The following table shows 163 convictions, as compared with 165 during 1903:—

—	1904.	1903.
Assaults and other offences against the person	16	17
Malicious injury to property	1	4
Offences against property other than malicious	6	4
Offences against highways	8	7
Other offences, such as soliciting, drunkenness, &c. ...	132	133
Total	163	165

The Police Magistrate informs me that in years past on the occasions of the anniversary meetings of the several Friendly Societies there were always cases of drunkenness to be tried the following day, but that in the last two years or three years there has been a decided improvement in this respect, and it is very satisfactory to be able to record that during the year under review there was not a single case against any member of any one of the numerous societies. A series of burglaries were committed in the Longwood District during the year.

These have all since been confessed to by one or other of the two men who were found guilty of wilful murder at the January Quarter Sessions, 1905. The execution of these two men, which took place in February, 1905, does not come within the scope of this report, but I trust that their fate may prove an example to the law breakers in the Colony generally.

(B.) Prisons.

There is only one gaol in the Colony, but this is quite sufficient for all requirements. Compared with the daily average number of prisoners in gaol during 1903, the year under review shows an increase of 1·4. This is accounted for by the fact that several persons were sentenced to what may for St. Helena be called long terms of imprisonment, varying from 3 to 18 months. There were also for the last two months of the year two men awaiting trial at the January, 1905, Quarter Sessions. On the other hand, the actual number of prisoners committed to gaol during the year was less than in 1903.

The number of prisoners admitted to the gaol during 1904 amounted to 41 (of which 16 were women), as against 50 in 1903. The number discharged during 1904 was 43 (of which 16 were women), as compared with 45 the previous year. On the 31st December, 1904, there were three prisoners undergoing sentences, and two awaiting trial at the Assizes. The health of the prisoners throughout the year was excellent. This was chiefly due to the sanitary condition of the gaol having been greatly improved. A new drainage and water system was inaugurated, and the gaol yard was paved with concrete in place of the uneven cobble stones. At an early date I propose, on the strong recommendation of the Colonial Surgeon, to carry out certain improvements in the lighting and ventilation of the cells and females' ward.

(C.) Police Force.

The force remains at the same strength as shown in last year's report. The Inspector makes a satisfactory report on the efficiency and conduct of the force during the year. In fact, he states that there was no serious case of misconduct on the part of a constable during that period. I am satisfied that there is a decided improvement in efficiency among the constables, and a desire on their part to do credit to the force. This is due to the energy of the Police Inspector and to the good feeling that exists between himself and his subordinates. The number of cases reported to, or noticed by, the police during the year was in excess of that of 1903. There was a total of 320 cases in all, of which 219 were dealt with by the Police Magistrate, whilst 101 were enquired into, and settled, by the police, such cases being of a trivial nature and not requiring Police Court action—the figures in 1903 being 270 and 73 respectively.

VII.—VITAL STATISTICS.

(A.) Population.

The population of the Colony, including the garrison and shipping, was 3,882, of which the Civil population numbered 3,458. This is a decrease in the Civil population on the number shown in my last two years' reports, where in reality the population has slightly increased. Shortly after my arrival in the Colony I found that there was no proper system employed by which a reliable estimate of the Civil population could be arrived at, and the figures given by me in my annual report for 1902, viz., 3,400, were as calculated by Lieutenant-Colonel Mosse, the Acting-Colonial Surgeon. The Blue Book, however, gave 4,158 as the population for that year. In the same way my calculation of the population, as given in my report for the year 1903, was 3,500, as against 4,585 given in the Blue Book. I was perfectly satisfied that the Blue Book figures were incorrect, as the system adopted for checking such figures was unpractical and could not be expected to arrive at a correct solution. My surmise proved to be correct, and the total of the Civil population given above for the year under review may be taken as reliable and will tally with the figures given in the Blue Book for 1904. I regret that I omitted in my last two reports to explain the reason of the discrepancy between my calculation of the population and that as shown in the Blue Book. The last Census in this Colony was taken in April, 1901, when the total of the Civil population was shown to be 3,342. The wharfinger, whose figures were taken in 1902 and 1903, had managed to mix up indiscriminately Boers, troops, and other persons in order to arrive at the correct total for those years. The result was, taking the Blue Book figures, that the Civil population increased from 3,342 in April, 1901, to 4,585 on the 31st December, 1903. Now that the figures have been carefully checked the increase of 1,243 in two years and nine months is converted into an increase of only 116 in three years and nine months.

The following figures show very fairly correctly the Civil population of the Colony for the last four years, taking 3,342 as having been the number on the night of the 7th April, 1901:—

Population on 31st December,			1901	... 3,374
,,	,,	,,	1902	... 3,392
,,	,,	,,	1903	... 3,403
,,	,,	,,	1904	... 3,458

The Registrar of births and deaths will in future be responsible for a correct return of the population being kept. There

were 122 births during the year under review, of which 4 were still-births and 24 were illegitimate. 52 deaths were registered during the same period, which include 1 soldier, and 1 seaman landed for hospital treatment. These figures, as compared with 1903, show a decrease of 24 births and 17 deaths. The number of emigrants and immigrants practically balanced each other, there being 83 emigrants and 81 immigrants. There were 29 marriages during the year, being a decrease of 3 as compared with the previous year.

(B.) Public Health.

The Colonial Surgeon's report for the year under review shows a decided improvement in the health of the Colony as indicated by the death-rate, as compared with 1903. The deaths numbered 52, of which 50 were amongst the Civil population. These figures give a total death-rate of 13·3 per 1,000, or, amongst the Civil population alone, of 14·4 per 1,000, as compared with 19·7 per 1,000 in the previous year.

The death-rate for the year under review is the lowest recorded since 1897. In the months of February and March influenza was very prevalent in the island. Amongst the cases were 28 complicated with lobar pneumonia. This was the type of influenza which visited the Colony so severely in 1900. Only one death, however, resulted from pneumonia, the patient being over 84 years of age. There were 16 cases of enteric fever amongst the Civil population during the year, equally distributed between Jamestown and the country districts. There was one death, equivalent to a mortality of 6·2 per cent. The Colonial Surgeon reports that the enteric in Jamestown appeared shortly after the heavy floods that took place in April, and gives it as his opinion that it is possible that some contaminated matter was washed down from the high lands and reached, what was then, the part source of the Jamestown water supply. In one house where a case of enteric fever occurred, a man over 50 years of age, and the only fatal case, the new pipes had only just been laid, conveying to the house a mixed supply, that is, partly spring and partly stream water. The occupants were warned not to use this water for drinking purposes, but to continue to draw from the tanks in the streets as formerly, until such time as pure spring water only would be conveyed into the house service. This warning was, however, totally disregarded, and the mixed water used for drinking purposes. The Colonial Surgeon considers that in all probability this was the source of the disease, and that the other cases in Jamestown had a similar origin.

As soon as enteric fever appeared notices were posted throughout the Colony that all drinking water, milk, &c., should be boiled, and other precautions were taken. I concur with Dr. Arnold in thinking that these precautions were effec-

tive in limiting the number of cases. The enteric cases in the country were practically confined to two families, and occurred at a later season of the year than those in Jamestown. The origin of the cases in the country is uncertain, owing to the isolated position of the dwellings. In one family, however, the Colonial Surgeon is satisfied that the disease arose from overcrowding, where children were compelled to occupy the same room as the sick, and, in some cases, even the same bed. The sick room, too, was used as a living room. One of the greatest evils amongst the poorer classes of the community is this overcrowding. The Commissioners of Crown Property have, for the last year and a half, refused to allow any tenant of Government land to build a cottage thereon until a plan has been submitted showing interior area, number of rooms, windows, doors, &c., and the number in family. Permission to build is only then given after the Colonial Surgeon has approved of the plan. Had this been done in former years there is no doubt that much disease would have been prevented.

(C.) Sanitary.

The Colonial Surgeon, as Health Officer, reports that the Board of Health met once in each month throughout the year under review. Various matters affecting public health were carefully considered, and in several instances breaches of the Health Ordinance were referred to the jurisdiction of the Law Courts. Alterations in the construction of houses and tenements with a view to their better ventilation are being steadily insisted upon. Galvanised iron is almost exclusively used as roofing material throughout the Colony. The Colonial Surgeon points out that especially in the dwellings of the poorer classes this iron roofing, in a hot climate, has an undoubtedly deteriorating influence on health. Consequently, to remedy the evil, the insertion of a canvas ceiling beneath the iron roof is being gradually made compulsory. Earth floors are being slowly abolished, but the poverty of the householders is a decided bar to rapid changes in this direction. Dr. Arnold reports that the Sanitary Inspector has been most assiduous in seeing that the public carry out the Sanitary Regulations. As I pointed out under the head of "Public Health," the plans of new buildings on Government land are now submitted to the Colonial Surgeon; and in every instance it has so far been necessary to make alterations in the original plans to effect proper ventilation. Ideas on this subject have hitherto been most rudimentary, buildings having formerly been erected in such a manner as to make ventilation impossible. Prior to 1904 vaccination had fallen somewhat into abeyance. During the year under review, however, 409 vaccinations were performed. Of these 97·18 per cent were successful. Three centres of attendance have been fixed for the island, and vaccination is performed at each of these centres once a month.

The Colonial Surgeon formed a class of instruction in "first aid" during the year for the purpose of imparting an idea of this important branch of elementary knowledge to the police force. The men have displayed an intelligent interest in the subject.

The Colonial Surgeon, Dr. Arnold, is indefatigable in his exertions to improve the sanitary conditions of the Colony, and his efforts have been most successful. Dr. Arnold is the only civil practitioner in the Colony, and he practically has sole medical charge of the entire civil population of St. Helena.

(D.) Climate.

The Meteorological Station remains at Hutt's Gate, 1,900 feet above sea level.

Barometer.—The mean pressure for the year was 28·139 inches, the mean for the past five years being 28·142 inches.

Temperature.—The mean temperature was 60·4°, as against 60·0° in 1903, the maximum 77·6° being recorded on the 20th March. In the previous year 77·0° was the maximum temperature, recorded on the 31st March. The absolute minimum was 49·6° on the 21st August, the same as in 1903.

Rainfall.—The total rainfall for the year under review was 45·73 inches, being an excess of 3·10 inches over the fall of the previous year. Very heavy rains fell during the latter part of March and first few days of April, resulting in heavy floods. The damage caused by these floods is dealt with under the head "Miscellaneous." The heaviest fall in one day was on the 2nd April, viz., 2·18 inches. The total rainfall for April was 10 inches, the highest recorded in one month for many years. Rain fell on 257 days of the year, as compared with 291 in 1903.

Wind.—The anemograph was dismantled on the 18th August, and the recording portions of the instrument were sent to London for repair. They have not yet been returned.

The mean force of the wind up to the 18th August inclusive was 2·5, which is equivalent to 14 miles an hour. The direction of the wind during the same period was:—S.E., 88 days; E.S.E., 115 days; S.S.E., 3 days; and E., 12 days. There were 13 days of calm.

The above statistics only give an idea of the weather conditions of the highlands of the island. The mean temperature in Jamestown was 75°. The maximum reached 81° on the 1st February, and the minimum 65° on the 27th July. There is no record kept by anyone of the rainfall in Jamestown, but I am told it amounts to from 5 to 6 inches during an ordinary year.

VIII.—POSTAL, TELEGRAPH, AND TELEPHONE SERVICES.

(A.) Postal.

The postal revenue for the year under review amounted to £1,700 16*s.* 5*d.*, of which £817 8*s.* 3*d.* was realized by the sale of the entire stock of the Victorian issues of stamps, the face value of which was £8,638 7*s.* 8*d.* The postal revenue exceeded that of the previous year by £212. The expenditure for the year amounted to £414 8*s.* 9*d.*, being £1,007 16*s.* 1*d.* less than in 1903. The expenditure, however, for 1903 was abnormally large, as explained in my annual report for that year. The mail matter despatched to and from the Colony increased under several heads, the principal increase of 3,204 being under post cards, due to the large assortment of pictorial cards purchased by the public; 261 bags of mails and 2,561 parcel post packages were received from the United Kingdom during the year, as against 258 and 2,560 respectively in the previous year. From Cape Colony and Natal 75 bags of mails and 202 parcel post packages were received, compared with 61 and 177 respectively in 1903.

41,129 letters, post cards, newspapers, and book packets were despatched to the United Kingdom, and 16,151 to Cape Colony and Natal—being a decrease of 545 and 90 respectively as compared with the previous year; 281 parcel post packages were despatched to the United Kingdom during the year, and 176 to Cape Colony and Natal, as against 395 and 172 in 1903.

The number of registered and insured articles (none of which were lost), in addition to the above totals, which passed through the Post Office numbered 3,409, being a decrease of 335 as compared with the previous year. On the 1st October of the year under review the postal order system was introduced into the Colony. Prior to this date the money order system only existed. The postal order system provides means to the public for remitting small sums of money at lower rates than charged for money orders. The new system appears to be working well. The following is the commission charged on postal orders:—

For sums of 6*d.* to 1*s.* 6*d.*	...	1*d.*
For sums of 2*s.* to 10*s.* 6*d.*	...	2*d.*
For sums of 11*s.* to 21*s*	...	3*d.*

Half of such commissions are credited to the United Kingdom. Postal orders, in addition to being exchanged with the United Kingdom, are exchanged between St. Helena and the following Colonies:—Gibraltar, Malta, Newfoundland, New Zealand, Barbados, British Honduras, Gambia, Gold Coast, Grenada,

Hong Kong, Jamaica, Cyprus, Bermuda, Leeward Islands (including Antigua, St. Kitts, Nevis, Dominica, Montserrat, and the Virgin Islands), St. Vincent, Straits Settlements, Sierra Leone, St. Lucia, Turks and Caicos Islands, and at the British postal agencies at Ascension, Constantinople, Panama, Salonica, and Smyrna.

During the year under review the maximum amount of a money order was raised from £10 to £40.

The following table shows the total transactions in money orders and postal orders during 1903 and 1904:—

—	1903.	1904.
	£	£
To United Kingdom ...	3,908	4,660
To South Africa	707	705
From United Kingdom ...	568	402
From South Africa ...	1,221	820

The above figures show a total increase of £183 in favour of 1904. Commissions to the value of £60 were received during the year, as compared with £56 in 1903.

(B.) Telegraph and Telephone.

The Eastern Telegraph Company increased their staff by one, making a total of 28. I understand that before very long the strength will be still further increased to a total of 40. The cost of telegrams per word remains generally the same as last reported. There is an excellent telephone service throughout the island, controlled entirely by the Imperial Government. The length of wire open for traffic was:—Administrative system, 41¾ miles; command system, 31 miles. Seven stations are maintained (including 3 signal stations). The staff consists of 3 signalmen, 5 operators, and 5 messengers; 9,477 messages were dealt with during the year under review, of which 7,849 were official.

The annual grant paid by the Colonial Government towards the maintenance of the telephone service remains at £45.

IX.—MILITARY FORCES AND EXPENDITURE.

The approved establishment of the garrison for the year 1904 was 20 officers and 511 non-commissioned officers and men. The actual strength on the 31st December of that year was 15 officers and 414 non-commissioned officers and men. The expenditure in connection with these Imperial Government troops need not be given here.

In addition to the Regulars, there is a local corps, the St. Helena Volunteer Sharpshooters, with an approved establishment of 3 officers and 100 rank and file. The actual strength amounted to 4 officers (1 supernumerary) and 93 of other ranks. The corps certainly improved in efficiency and discipline during the year. A great deal of attention is paid to rifle shooting, but the shooting on the whole is not good. This is partly due to the difficult conditions as to light and background that exist at the Ladder Hill Rifle Range. The shooting should, however, have been better than it was, as the corps has a Rifle Association which holds fortnightly meetings, and by which members are enabled to fire 14 rounds per month for the sum of one shilling. Instructions in semaphore signalling were carried out during the year, by which two signallers per section were trained. The progress shown by the men of the corps in extended order and skirmishing drill was made apparent on the few occasions on which they worked with the regular troops. The annual Easter camp proved of little practical use, as abnormally heavy rains prevented much real work being attempted. The Adjutant of the corps, Lieutenant H. Winterbotham, R.E., has been very energetic in doing his best to improve the efficiency thereof; and that officer informs me that he considers the discipline, obedience to their non-commissioned officers, and attention to duty of the Volunteers to be deserving of notice. A good *esprit* exists among the men, and they very much appreciate being called upon to work with the Regulars. Such opportunities do not often occur, but on the occasions that the corps co-operated with the regular troops during a "Practice mobilization" in November the Officer Commanding Troops made a very satisfactory report of the work done and the keenness shown. It would be a great benefit to the corps if the members thereof were called out for four days every year, receiving pay and rations during that period. Such an arrangement would be a great improvement on the Easter camp. It would, too, add to the efficiency of the corps, and would, I consider, attract the best class of men to enlist therein.

The total expenditure in connection with the corps during the year under review amounted to £163.

X.—GENERAL OBSERVATIONS.

Roads.

The Imperial Government maintained under repair 48 miles of country roads at a cost of £396. The mileage of the roads kept in repair is about 12 miles less than it was two years ago. Only those roads and bridges needful for defence purposes are now kept in repair by the military authorities. £75 was expended by the Colonial Government in the extraordinary repair of the streets in Jamestown during the year, and £29 in ordinary repairs. A further sum of £53 was expended by the Colony in special repairs to country roads made necessary by the damage caused thereto by the severe floods at Easter. This sum, however, is being refunded by the War Office.

Public Works of Importance carried out in the Whole or in Part during the Year.

Excellent progress was made during the year under review in the work connected with the new drainage and water schemes.

When Mr. Chadwick furnished his report to the Crown Agents in 1901 on the drainage and water systems of Jamestown he estimated that a sum of £4,000 would be required for house drainage connections and £1,000 for house water services. Unfortunately, Mr. Chadwick's figures are very much below the mark, especially as regards the £4,000 estimate. The total expenditure in connection with the drainage of private properties up to the 31st December, 1904, amounted to £3,813 17*s.* 6*d.*, and only half of the properties had been dealt with. The engineer-in-charge estimates that a further sum of £2,600 is required to complete the works in 1905, the total sum required exceeding the original estimate by £2,413 17*s.* 6*d.* The amount spent on the water services of private properties up to the 31st December, 1904, amounted to £849 19*s.* 5*d.* A further sum of £550 is required to complete in 1905, the total required being £399 19*s.* 5*d.* in excess of the original estimate. There can be no doubt that when Mr. Chadwick prepared his estimate for the drainage of private properties he based his calculations on the assumption that some of the existing house sewerage systems would probably be found sufficiently sound to permit, with the remedying of slight defects, of their remaining in use, and that entire reconstruction would not in every case be required. It has been found, however, as explained in Mr. Chisholm's report, quoted later on, that it has been necessary to introduce an entirely new drainage system in every property so far dealt with. Again, it is probable Mr. Chadwick made no allowance for the demands from owners of properties for baths, kitchen sinks, additional closets, &c. The

number of such demands has been very considerable. Large areas of open yards have, too, had to be provided, with channels for carrying away surface water to meet the requirements of the Ordinance. Mr. Chadwick allowed an average cost of £20 a property, whereas the cost so far averages £34. It is true that at the top end of Jamestown there are many small single tenements which will probably be drained for even less than £20, but not many. I cannot do better than quote Mr. Chisholm's report verbatim on the progress made in the works referred to during 1904. The report runs as follows:—

(*A.*) *Main Drainage.*

"The main drainage, of which about 3 per cent. of the entire scheme remained unfinished on the 31st December, 1903, was completed in the early part of the year, thus providing the town of Jamestown with a most complete and modern system of public sewers.

"The estimated cost of the drainage scheme was £4,000, and the actual cost £4,042 15*s.* 5*d.*, but the latter amount includes a sum of £48 13*s.* 4*d.* which had been expended in repairing the injury caused to the main and outfall sewers, after their completion, by the heavy floods of the 3rd and 4th of April last.

"The damage to the main sewer was chiefly confined to the vicinity of the "Run," which overflowed its banks and washed away, at three different points, the covering of the sewer, exposing the pipes, some of which got cracked and broken by the stones and débris carried along by the huge volume of water, and had to be replaced. A portion of the outfall sewer, along the West Rocks Road, also suffered injury from a fall of rocks from the cliff above, but considering the magnitude of the flood the damage done to the newly completed sewerage system was comparatively small.

(*B.*) *House Drainage.*

"On the completion of the main drainage in the early part of the year the tradesmen and more capable artisans employed thereon were available for house drainage work, and this increase of skilled labour enabled much better progress to be made with the latter scheme than, for lack of tradesmen, was possible since its commencement in August, 1903.

"The properties in Jamestown, including Colonial Government buildings but exclusive of those of the War Department to which the drainage Ordinance applies, number 206. Of these the drainage of 84 was completed on the 31st December, 1904, including all Government properties—16 in number—and that of 10 was in progress, leaving a total of 112 premises to be dealt with in 1905.

"Six public latrines were erected throughout the town during the year, and connected with the main sewer.

"The amount expended in connection with house drainage up to the 31st December, 1904, was as follows, viz.:—

(*a*) Private properties	£3,813	17	6
(*b*) Government properties (including public latrines)	1,223	3	3
Total	£5,037	0	9

"Item (*a*) includes certain imported materials which were in hand at the end of the year and which are being used in house drainage work during 1905.

"Excluding the Civil Hospital, which can scarcely be considered an ordinary property and which cost £254 19*s.* 3*d.* to complete, the greatest amount expended in the drainage of any single private premises up to the end of the year was £107 12*s.* 2*d.*, and the least £14 5*s.* 5*d.*, the average cost being at the rate of £38 per property.

"The premises on which house drainage has so far been completed include the larger buildings and more extensive tenements in the lower part of the town; but as the works extend upwards the properties to be dealt with are mainly of a much smaller size, so that the labour and materials required in connection with the drainage of these will be proportionately less.

"In every property dealt with an entirely new system of house drainage has had to be instituted, the uncovering of the old drains in almost every case exposing a most deplorable sanitary state of matters; pipes of various sizes and of different quality, badly jointed, if jointed at all, and laid regardless of line or gradient, frequently having the fall the wrong way, and often half full of solid matter; closets untrapped and drains unventilated constitute the old system of house drainage in Jamestown.

"The necessity for thus having to provide an entirely new system in every premises, together with the fact that the properties dealt with during 1904 were the larger and more extensive ones, accounts for what, at first sight, may possibly appear to be a high average cost of the carrying out of house drainage work.

"It is to be noted, too, that the owners of most of these premises, principally the wealthy members of the community, have had, at their own request, baths and kitchen sinks provided and fitted, and instead of one w.c. frequently two, and sometimes three, were asked for, and a building erected to contain them.

"In tenements occupied by several families the Board of Health requires that two, and even three, w.c.'s should be provided; and for these, also, buildings have to be constructed to contain them.

"On closer observation, therefore, it will be found that the average cost of £38 per property is, in the circumstances, a moderate one.

"It is worthy of note that although the main drainage scheme received considerable opposition on its commencement in 1902, the work of house drainage is now welcomed by property owners and householders, who afford every assistance in facilitating the starting and carrying out of the work on their respective properties. The difference between the old order of things and the new is apparently recognized and appreciated by them.

"With one single exception, no complaint of any sort has, so far, been received from property owners respecting the drainage of their premises.

(*C.*) *Waterworks.*

"The new waterworks extension scheme, of which about 13 per cent. remained unfinished on the 31st December, 1903, was completed during 1904, and Jamestown is now provided with an abundant supply of excellent spring water.

"Four cast iron tanks, situated at the top end of the town at an elevation of about 290 feet above sea level, now act as a service reservoir. These tanks, formerly reserved for fire emergency purposes only, are of a capacity of about 12,000 gallons each, and are connected together by means of 3-inch pipes fixed near the bottoms, making them, for all practical purposes, one tank of 48,000 gallons, or 214 tuns.

"The sources of supply are known as Chubb's Upper and Lower Springs, the former situated at Drummer's Point at an elevation of about 612 feet above sea level, and the latter about 600 feet further down the valley, its elevation being 590 feet above the sea.

"The joint flow of the springs amounts to about 51,280 gallons per day, which, since the checking of much waste and the renewing of many defective house services throughout the town, proves to be more than ample for the present requirements of Jamestown.

"The Lower Chubb's supply is collected at its source into small concrete gathering tanks, and conveyed in 4-inch cast iron pipes to a concrete break-off-pressure tank outside Mr. Bell's lower entrance gate, where it joins the supply from Chubb's Upper Spring, which is taken in 6-inch cast iron pipes from the tank beside its source at Drummer's Point.

"From this break-off-pressure tank the water is conveyed in 6-inch cast iron pipes to the service reservoir at the top end of the town, and from there it is carried in 6-inch cast iron pipes along Market Street and Main Street, through the Public Gardens and along the Wharf, terminating at the landing steps, where a "scour out" has been placed for cleansing purposes. Four-inch cast iron pipes serve for the supply of Napoleon Street, and 3-inch cast iron pipes for that of Back Street. To relieve the pressure of the service piping in the lower part of the town, a break-off-pressure tank has been built opposite the Middle Burial Ground, at an elevation of about 150 feet above sea level.

"The pipes throughout the entire system have been jointed with molten lead, well caulked, which enable them to withstand considerable pressure.

"Numerous fire hydrants have been provided, so that in the event of fire it will be possible to direct a powerful jet upon any house throughout the town. In connection with this it is satisfactory to note that the reservoir tanks, at the top end of the town, can always be relied upon as containing a full supply at any time during the day or night, for it is observed that at the hours of greatest consumption the fall of water in these tanks never exceeds three or four inches.

"The building of an elevated water tank on the east wharf for the supplying of ships was undertaken and completed during the year. The tank, which was of cast iron and had a capacity of 12,000 gallons or 53 tons, was supported by brick and concrete columns, carried up to a height of 25 feet above level of the wharf. It proved a considerable improvement on the old method of watering ships, but, unfortunately, the structure collapsed during a period of heavy rollers early in January of this year; the collapse, it is believed, being due to the concussion caused by the unusually heavy sea which had been running at the time.

"The amount sanctioned for the waterworks extension scheme was £1,500, and the actual cost amounted to £1,690 8*s*. 2*d*., but the latter sum includes a sum of £10 16*s*. 9*d*. expended in repairing the damage caused to the works by the heavy floods in April last, which, if deducted from the actual expenditure, would show the amount originally sanctioned to be exceeded by £179 11*s*. 5*d*.

"With regard to this excess I would explain that no estimate was ever prepared for the water works extension scheme like there had been for the drainage. Mr. Chadwick, in paragraph 19 of his report to the Crown Agents on the water supply, dated the 25th November, 1901, states:—

> "'It is difficult, if not impossible, to estimate with any degree of accuracy, the probable cost of these works, consisting as they do mainly of alterations and repairs. His

Excellency the Governor has, I learn, included in the estimate of the coming year a sum of £1,500; I recommend that this sum be sanctioned provisionally, and that the reorganisation of the water supply should go on concurrently with the sewerage works referred to in another report.'

(D.) House Services.

"House service work continues to be carried on simultaneously with house drainage.

"During the earlier part of the year the work of renewing house services became somewhat in arrear for lack of plumbers, and it was found necessary to obtain the services of a "journeyman plumber" from England. He arrived in September, and this additional hand has enabled house service work to be kept abreast of house drainage.

"Lead piping is used, in most cases, for service work, property owners preferring it to wrought iron tubing, which, though much cheaper, is supposed to be more liable to corrode than lead.

"The renewing of so many of the old house services, which is in every case in a very worn and perished condition, has arrested considerable waste of water, with the result that the spring water, although found to be inadequate when turned on in July last as the town's sole supply, now proves more than abundant for all requirements of the town; and it is expected that further checking of waste will be effected as the work of renewing proceeds.

"The total expenditure in connection with house services up to the 31st December, 1904, amounted to:—

(*a*) Private properties	£849	19	5
(*b*) Government properties	261	10	1
	£1,111	9	6"

Another important work carried out during the year was the erection of a verandah at the Civil Hospital on a level with the wards. This was a much needed addition, as it allows the patients being moved into the open air without undue labour on the part of the nursing staff. Previous to the erection of the verandah patients had to be carried on heavy beds by the nurses down and up a narrow stairway in order that the patients might be given the benefits of the open air. The ordinary duties falling to the lot of hospital nurses are severe enough without them being called upon to perform such manual labour as was required in moving patients up and down stairs

The collapse of the new elevated tank on the wharf, alluded to above in Mr. Chisholm's report, was a serious loss to the Colony. The ancient system of watering the shipping has had to be reverted to, and I am afraid the Colony will not for many years be in a position to attempt to expend money in providing an entirely new system. I consider, however, that the old means of watering ships is quite good enough, except in the case of His Majesty's ships, for the few ships that now visit the Port of Jamestown.

Land Grants and General Value of Land.

Only one grant of Government waste land, one acre in extent, was made during the year, at an annual rental of 7*s.* 6*d.* Eleven transfers of land were effected in the General Register by authority of the Commissioners of Crown Property during the same period.

The total sum received during the year in respect to rents for Government properties amounted to £934 18*s.* 5*d.* The value of land remains unchanged.

Rate of Wages and Cost of Living.

There was no marked change in the rate of wages, except, perhaps, as far as skilled labour was concerned. This refers especially to carpenters, there being very few in the island. They can consequently command a wage in excess of what they are really worth as mechanics. The ordinary labourer gets 2*s.* 6*d.* per diem, a very good wage considering the amount of work the majority get through in a day. Hay makers and mowers receive from 3*s.* 6*d.* to 4*s.* a day during the harvest. Carpenters are paid from 7*s.* 6*d.* to 5*s.*, but there are only 3 good men of that trade in the Colony. In addition, however, there are at least a couple of good carpenters in the Royal Engineer Department, and the Commanding Royal Engineer is always ready to lend them to the Colonial Government when they can be spared. Such assistance is most helpful. I really do not know how the Public Works Department could get on without it.

The cost of the necessaries of life was, if anything, less than in the previous year. This was owing to competition among shopkeepers. The same remark also applies to the fishermen as regards fish, the price being normal. There is no doubt that the cost of living to the better classes in the Colony is unduly high. The freight on articles imported over sea is abnormally high. Thanks, however, to competition, the Union Castle S.S. Company towards the end of the year curtailed their rates of freight somewhat, and may have to do so even to a lower figure if that company wishes to have a monopoly of the small import trade carried on between the Mother Country and St. Helena. On the other hand, however, the cost of living among the poorer

classes is not high, as they live almost entirely on fish and rice. Those persons who catch their own fish can, by selling what they do not require for themselves and their families, provide themselves with the necessary funds with which to purchase rice.

Departments and Institutions.

I have already in this report dealt with most departments under their respective heads. There only remain the Public Works and the Printing Departments. The expenditure under public works recurrent amounted to £1,750 during the year under review, being a saving of £41 on the amount sanctioned in the estimate, whilst £767 was expended under public works extraordinary out of an authorized expenditure of £812. These figures are exclusive of the monies spent in carrying out the drainage and water works schemes. New roofs were placed on a portion of the Town Boys' School, on the Customs House, the Colonial Surgery, and the Town Girls' School, in place of the old roofs, which leaked like sieves. Satisfactory progress in carrying out even ordinary works is made very difficult owing to the lack of skilled labour. £75 was expended during the year in special repairs to the Jamestown streets, which had been taken up in laying the new drainage and water systems. A verandah was erected at the Civil Hospital. The money expended in the repairs necessary owing to damage to the "Run" and to the roads by floods is referred to under the head "Miscellaneous." The upkeep and repair of the ancient water mains in the country districts absorb a considerable amount of money every year, and must continue to do so until new pipes are put down. The sale of stores during the year brought in a sum of £879 10*s*. 2*d*., of which £523 9*s*. 4*d*. was realized by the sale of cypress wood to the public and to the Imperial Government.

Fairly satisfactory work was performed by the Printing Department during the year. This Department is, however, the least satisfactory of all the Departments. Fourteen and a quarter reams of paper were used during the year.

The receipts and expenditure for the last five years of the Poor Board and Public Market were as given below:—

Poor Board.

Year.	Revenue.	Expenditure
	£	£
1900	857	871
1901	933	855
1902	897	899
1903	829	821
1904	872	855

Public Market.

Year.	Revenue.	Expenditure.
	£	£
1900	238	202
1901	242	173
1902	197	186
1903	124	194
1904	325	208

Miscellaneous.

Abnormally heavy rains during the first week in April resulted in most serious floods, which caused widespread damage throughout the Colony. It would be difficult to exaggerate the extent of the damage done to roads, which in many cases were converted into mere watercourses. This especially refers to the roads leading into Jamestown, which for some days were closed to wheeled traffic. These roads, too, especially between Ladder Hill and Jamestown, were rendered very unsafe owing to the falls of rock that took place from time to time. Only persons who have seen Jamestown can understand what a death-trap the place would be as regards a large number of the houses were any serious fall of rocks to take place. Fortunately on this occasion there was no loss of life. The last serious fall of rock took place one night in 1890, when nine persons were killed in their beds. The new drainage and water works suffered considerable damage. The small streams that run down the several valleys were converted into small torrents, which carried rocks, trees, and everything before them. The larger of these streams find their outlet to the sea by way of the "Run" through Jamestown. This "Run" is a large open drain made of masonry and concrete, and it was severely damaged by the rush of water and débris. A clean sweep was made of trees, yams, &c., growing near the "Run" from the country downwards. In my opinion the "Run" saved Jamestown from suffering considerably more damage than it did. By undertaking only such repairs as were absolutely necessary, the damage caused by the floods cost the Government £418, of which £150 was expended in repairing the "Run." Considering the serious nature of the floods it is surprising how very little actual distress was caused among the poorer inhabitants. I appointed a Relief Committee, who were indefatigable in their efforts to inquire into all cases when the damage done affected people who were in really poor circumstances and who could not in any way attempt to repair their damaged cottages. In some cases houses were completely gutted, and in the country districts entire garden patches, both soil and crops, were washed down the hill sides. Although the majority of the people

of St. Helena are certainly poor, there is very little real poverty. This fact was clearly demonstrated by the Relief Committee receiving only thirty applications for help, and of these only 21 were considered as deserving of assistance. In addition to labour and material supplied by the Government to such persons, only £13 in actual cash was paid out by the Committee. The military authorities kindly placed the unoccupied Jamestown Barracks at the disposal of several families who had been washed out of their homes, and whose houses were in danger of being demolished by falling rocks. In fact, the Imperial Government, as is usual on such occasions, rendered me the most willing assistance in every way. The thanks of the Colony are due to the Officer Commanding the Troops for his ready co-operation. It is twenty-six years since the Colony was visited by such severe floods. In 1878, however, the downpour which caused the floods was of short duration, although very serious damage was caused. In this case the floods were successive, day after day for a week, each flood being more severe than its predecessor.

The Colony suffered a loss during the year by the death of the Bishop of the Diocese, the Right Reverend John Garraway Holmes, M.A. The late Bishop was highly respected by all classes. He will best be remembered in the Colony for the assistance he rendered this Government in advising as to the best means of improving the facilities by which the children in the island might receive the benefits of elementary education. Bishop Holmes had great experience in educational matters, and I am indebted to him for his valuable advice, which he always gave so readily, in helping me to introduce into St. Helena an Education Ordinance which compelled parents to send their children to school. The success of this Ordinance has already been remarked on in another part of this report.

The number of vessels that touched at the island during the year under review was smaller than ever, being 107—the lowest on record, a portentous sign of the waning of the Colony's prosperity. In the fifties and sixties the average number of vessels that paid tonnage dues at the Port of Jamestown amounted to over 900. This was, of course, before the opening of the Suez Canal. A visit from one of His Majesty's ships of war is now an event in the island. The fact is that as far as His Majesty's ships are concerned the island is on the road to "nowhere." During the year only three British warships called at St. Helena, in each case bound for England on the completion of commission. Comparing this with forty years ago, we find that in 1864 no less than 17 ships of war touched at the Island, and in those days the Navy was very small in comparison to its present strength. On the other hand, however, an unusual number of warships of other nations called at the island, numbering nine in all, including the United States of America South Atlantic Squadron, under the command of

Rear-Admiral Chadwick. The advent of the American Squadron was quite an event; everything was done to make the stay of our friends, which lasted for 8 days, a pleasant one. The benefit arising from such a visit, especially to the merchants and shop-owners in the Colony, was naturally much appreciated. Considering the proximity of St. Helena to the West African Coast, and the splendid climate of the island, it is to be wondered that it is not used as a sanatorium by His Majesty's Navy. The salvation of the island, as far as I can see, depends upon an industry of some kind being started. It would be a God-send to the people of St. Helena if an industry could be introduced and worked successfully.

A gloom was cast over the island early in November owing to a most cowardly and cold-blooded murder taking place, the victim being a most respectable, honest, and much-esteemed man, who was employed by the Imperial Government as signalman at Prosperous Bay Signal Station. The motive of the murderers was of the meanest, that of robbery. Their plans were carefully made, but the sum total of their haul amounted to a few articles of no great value and 2*s*. 9*d*. in cash. An event of this nature is almost unique in the annals of the Colony since the Imperial Government assumed the administration of the island in 1834. In fact it is now over fifty years since a death sentence was carried out in St. Helena. The two murderers were tried and convicted at the January Quarter Sessions, 1905.

The contoured survey undertaken by Lieutenant F. B. Legh, R.E., in 1903 has resulted in the publication of an excellent map of the island.

H. L. Gallwey,
Governor and
Commander-in-Chief.

The Castle,
St. Helena,
23rd February, 1905.

K.

The following table gives a comparison of the revenue for 1903 and 1904, classified under the principal heads:—

Head.	1903.	1904.	Increase.	Decrease.
	£	£	£	£
Customs	7,191	7,141	—	50
Licenses, taxes, auction dues ...	905	906	1	—
Fines, fees of office, and reimbursements in aid.	861	1,997	1,136	—
Post Office	1,489	1,701	212	—
Rents of Government property	941	935	—	6
Miscellaneous receipts	382	244	—	138
Interest	1,363	1,179	—	184
Total	13,132	14,103	1,349	378

L.

The following table gives the various instances of increase and decrease under the different heads of expenditure for 1903 and 1904:—

Head.	1903.	1904.	Increase.	Decrease.
	£	£	£	£
Sharpshooters	140	163	23	—
Public debt	1,000	1,000	—	—
Pensions	1,000	1,072	72	—
The Governor	989	999	10	—
Colonial Secretary	657	657	—	—
Customs	1,787	717	—	1,070
Legal	331	323	—	8
Savings Bank	795	808	13	—
Police	863	795	—	68
Medical	1,564	1,342	—	222
Education	556	615	59	—
Post Office	1,423	415	—	1,008
Miscellaneous Services ...	292	430	138	—
Colonial Engineer	251	251	—	—
Public works recurrent ...	1,847	1,750	—	97
Public works extraordinary ...	7,092	6,498	—	531
Port and Marine	524	527	3	—
Gratuities	158	—	—	158
Gaol	176	190	14	—
Total	21,382	18,552	332	3,162

M.

The following table shows the revenue and expenditure during the last five years:—

Year.	Revenue.	Expenditure.
	£	£
1900	15,391	12,603
1901	24,614	14,927
1902	23,095	18,613
1903	13,123	21,383
1904	14,103	18,552

N.

Statement of Assets and Liabilities on 31st December, 1904.

Liabilities.	Amount.	Assets.	Amount.
	£ s. d.		£ s. d
Arrears due by Colony	—	In Colonial Chest	220 1 2
Personal	—	With Crown Agents	—
Pensions (*see* page 38)	96 8 1	Remittances in transit to C.A.	2,350 0 0
Miscellaneous (*see* page 38)	2,572 6 0	Advances due to Colony (*see* page 38)	39 11 5
Due to Savings Bank...	28,097 15 8	Arrears of Revenue (*see* page 38)	—
Due to Crown Agents, amount overpaid on their General Account, 31st December, 1904.	1,048 12 9	Parliamentary Grants...	—
		Grants in Aid	—
Due to G.P.O., London Postal Account	8 3 3	Mail Service	—
		Invested for Savings Bank (Market value) ...	29,504 8 5•
	31,823 5 9	Due by householders for labour and material in connection with new drainage on 31st December, 1904.	3,876 9 2
Excess of Assets over Liabilities	4,167 4 5		
	35,990 10 2		35,990 10 2

• Nominal value—£30,999 17*s.* 11*d.*

Advances Due to Colony.

—	Amount.
	£ s. d.
Board of Trade	13 0 0
Sharpshooters	14 17 11
"	11 13 6
Total...	39 11 5

Arrears of Revenue.

Nil.

Pensions.

—	Amount
	£ s. d.
James Hercules	3 8 6
Edward Samuel	3 0 10
Reverend T. Goodwin ...	3 13 4
John C. Melliss	46 11 8
Richard C. Pennell... ...	34 7 6
Richard Dowling	5 6 3
Total..	96 8 1

Miscellaneous.

—	Amount.
	£ s. d.
Bills of Exchange (unpaid)	2,566 0 0
Fees due to Emigration Agent	6 6 0
Total...	2,572 6 0

P.

Comparative Statement of Customs Revenue for the Years 1900 to 1904 inclusive.

—	Permits	Wharfage.	Duty.	Tonnage Dues.	Warehouse Rent.	Water.	Total.
	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.
1900	49 17 0	2,277 11 5	6,527 17 2	920 12 0	86 4 5	564 3 3	10,426 8 3
1901	40 2 0	2,980 10 3	10,891 17 0	1,410 14 6	112 8 4	429 16 3	15,865 18 4
1902	46 3 0	3,321 3 7	11,326 12 0	1,354 13 0	146 14 3	432 1 3	16,627 7 1
1903	33 18 9	1 840 18 11	4,620 0 10	393 12 0	86 7 4	216 12 6	7,191 10 4
1904	33 4 0	2,067 5 5	4,471 18 0	340 14 6	90 7 5	137 2 6	7,140 11 10

Q.

Value of Trade, 1900 to 1904.

Imports from

Years.	United Kingdom.	Colonies.	Elsewhere.	Total.
	£	£	£	£
1900 ...	159,573 °15,000	8,709	—	168,282
1901 ...	100,675 °16,650	4,970	—	105,645
1902 ...	93,920 •15,000	6,558	—	100,478
1903 ...	55,120	3,111	2,228	60,459
1904 ...	71,652	4,294	32	75,978

° Specie imported.

Exports to

Years.	United Kingdom.	Colonies.	Elsewhere.	Total.
	£	£	£	£
1900 ...	4,075 •3,785	140	—	4,215
1901 ...	4,724 •4,035	—	—	4,724
1902 ...	1,168 °250	—	—	1,755
1903 ...	235	†12,000	—	12,235
1904 ...	594 •250	146	—	740

• Specie exported by merchants.

† Specie exported by Imperial Government.

R.

GENERAL ABSTRACT of VESSELS which have touched at this PORT from JANUARY 1st, 1904, to DECEMBER 31st, 1904.

Class.	American.		British.		Spanish.		Portuguese.		French.		German.		Italian.		Norwegian.		Swedish.		Russian.		Total.	
	No.	Tons.	No.	Tons.	No.	Tons.	No.	Tons.	No.	Tons.	No.	Tons.	No.	Tons.	No.	Tons.	No.	Tons.	No.	Tons.	No.	Tons.
Vessels of War and Transports.	4	15,027	5	23,488	1	1,500	1	600	2	10,227	1	5,885	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	14	56,727
Mail and Merchant Steamers.	—	—	43	145,436	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	43	145,436
Merchant Sailing Vessels	2	2,293	25	30,905	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	915	1	1,798	17	13,622	1	794	1	942	48	51,269
Whalers	2	637	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	2	637
Total ...	8	17,957	73	199.829	1	1,500	1	600	2	10,227	2	6,800	1	1,798	17	13,622	1	794	1	942	107	254,069

Tonnage of Men-of-War and Transports...	56,727
„ „ Steamers	145,436
„ „ Sailing Vessels	51,906
Total Tonnage...	254,069

1903.	Number of Vessels	
„	Tonnage	25,226

S.

Comparative Statement of Shipping Entered and Cleared from 1900 to 1904.

—	1900.		1901.		1902.		1903.		1904.	
	Ships.	Tonnage.	Ships.	Tonnage.	Ships.	Tonnage.	Ships.	Tonnage.	Ships.	Tonnage.
British—										
Steam	41	155,542	74	248,089	66	228,337	34	164,994	40	198,718
Sailing	9	4,944	6	4,654	7	5,687	6	3,921	6	3,012
Foreign—										
Sailing	3	1,546	2	859	1	419	1	479	—	—
Total	53	162,032	82	253,602	74	234,443	41	169,344	46	201,730

COLONIAL REPORTS.

The following recent reports relating to His Majesty's Colonial Possessions have been issued, and may be obtained from the sources indicated on the title page :—

ANNUAL.

No.	Colony.	Year.
427	Lagos	1903
428	Bahamas	1903–1904
429	Northern Territories of the Gold Coast... ...	1903
430	Mauritius	"
431	Seychelles	"
432	Barbados	1903–1904
433	Southern Nigeria	1903
434	Fiji	"
435	Straits Settlements...	"
436	Grenada	"
437	Northern Nigeria	"
438	Jamaica	1903–1904
439	Malta	"
440	Bechuanaland Protectorate	1902–1903 & 1903–1904
441	British Guiana	1903–1904
442	Trinidad and Tobago	"
443	St. Lucia	"
444	Basutoland	"
445	Leeward Islands	"
446	St. Vincent	"
447	Bermuda	"

MISCELLANEOUS.

No.	Colony.	Subject.
16	Miscellaneous Colonies ...	Medical Reports.
17	Gilbert and Ellice Islands ...	Report for 1896-1900.
18	Hong Kong	Operations in New Territory during 1900.
19	Miscellaneous Colonies ...	Medical Reports.
20	Weihaiwei	General Report.
21	Dominica	Report on Caribs.
22	Seychelles	Report on Para Rubber.
23	Dominica	Roads and Land Settlement.
24	Grenada	Land Settlement in Carriacou.
25	Hong Kong	Bubonic Plague, 1903.
26	Northern Nigeria	Mineral and Vegetable Products.
27	Miscellaneous Colonies ...	Medical Reports.
28	Gold Coast and Sierra Leone	Rubber.
29	Ceylon...	Geological Survey.
30	Pitcairn Island	Report by Mr. R. T. Simons.

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1905.

COLONIAL REPORTS—ANNUAL.

No. 486.

ST. HELENA.

REPORT FOR 1905.

(For Report for 1904, *see* No. 448.)

Presented to both Houses of Parliament by Command of His Majesty.
June, 1906.

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No. 486.

ST. HELENA.

(For Report for 1904, *see* No. 448.)

THE GOVERNOR to THE SECRETARY OF STATE.

The Castle,

St. Helena,

8th March, 1906.

MY LORD,

I HAVE the honour to transmit herewith the Colony's Blue Book for the year 1905, together with my Annual Report covering the same.

2. The references in my report to the present state of the labour market and of trade generally in St. Helena are gloomy reading. I am, however, sanguine that an era of prosperity will before long dawn in the Colony, provided, however, that the troops are not entirely withdrawn. My hopes are based upon not only the probability of some company working the manganese ore deposits, but also on the likelihood of the flax industry being successfully revived by a South African Syndicate. Under the circumstances I feel confident that in my next Annual Report I shall be able to write on the Colony's future in a more hopeful strain. The hopes expressed in some quarters that St. Helena might become a health resort are not, I fear, likely to be realised, owing to the great distance of the Island from the British Isles.

I have, &c.,

H. L. GALLWEY,

Governor and
Commander-in-Chief.

1125 Wt 23907 6/06 D & S 5 24840

ANNUAL REPORT FOR THE YEAR 1905.

I.—FINANCIAL.

(A.) Revenue.

The revenue of the Colony for the year under review amounted to £10,287 13*s.* 9*d.*, being £1,226 6*s.* 3*d.* under the original Estimate and £692 6*s.* 3*d.* less than the revised Estimate. As compared with the previous year the revenue showed a falling off of £3,073 14*s.* 6*d.*

The failure of the revenue to come up to the Estimate was chiefly due to the Imperial Government removing the infantry detachment from the Island early in the year. Further, the number of "calling ships" was the lowest on record, which fact caused a falling off in imports and was naturally detrimental to private enterprise.

Every item of revenue showed a decrease as compared with the previous year excepting "Rents" and "Miscellaneous," which remained practically the same, showing a total increase of £13 over the figures for 1904.

The chief fallings off were:—"Customs £1,421, and "Post Office" £934, due to the reduction of the garrison, and in the case of the "Post Office" also due to less orders being received than formerly from stamp collectors. There was a marked decrease under "Fines, &c."—amounting to £564—due principally to the public purchasing less cypress timber from the Government than in the previous year. A falling off of £164 under "Interest" is accounted for by the Crown Agents refunding to the Colony, in 1904, surplus funds on which they had paid the Colony interest at current bank rate. The refunding of these monies was made necessary to meet the expenditure in connection with the Jamestown Drainage and Water Works Schemes.

In my Annual Report for 1904 receipts from householders (shown under "Fines, &c.") on account of repayments for drainage connections and water services were included in the revenue. These receipts—£741 10*s.* 6*d.* in 1904 and £1,404 16*s.* 11*d.* in 1905—have now been transferred to and accounted for under "Advances repaid" and are not included in the revenue.

(B.) Expenditure.

The expenditure during 1905 was £14,969 8*s.* 3*d.*, being £3,582 4*s.* 5*d.* less than the previous year and £606 5*s.* 10*d.* under the Estimate. The expenditure exceeded the revenue by £4,681 14*s.* 6*d.* This deficit is met by the balance in hand carried over from the previous year and by an overdraft of £4,428 1*s.* 8*d.* with the Crown Agents. On this overdraft the

Colony is paying interest at the bank rate, which overdraft will be liquidated by realising from time to time part of the surplus funds of the Colony which are invested in securities in the hands of the Crown Agents.

Every effort was made to economise during the year. The only excess of expenditure (£75) incurred was under "Miscellaneous," due to increased interest to the Crown Agents on overdrafts. The heavy expenditure on the Jamestown Drainage and Water Works and large withdrawals from the Savings Bank were the entire causes of these overdrafts. The works referred to, completed during the year under review, cost the sum of £17,142, being £3,729 over the estimate. £7,527 of this amount is due from householders, of which £2,192 has been recovered up to the 31st December, 1905, leaving £5,335 still due, which bears interest at the rate of from 2½ to 3½ per cent.

(C.) Assets and Liabilities.

The Colony's assets exceeded the liabilities by £4,142 10*s.* 10*d.* on the 31st December, 1905. These figures are, however, misleading. In the table of Assets and Liabilities (shown at the end of this report, marked N) it will be seen that the Colony's investments show an asset of £31,233 1*s.* 7*d.*, that being the cost price of such investments, whereas the actual market value of those investments on the 31st December, 1905, was £29,797 8*s.* 2*d.*, or a deficit on the cost price of £1,435 13*s.* 5*d.* Consequently the actual excess of assets over liabilities was only £2,706 17*s.* 5*d.* The market value of the Colony's securities given above showed an increase of £292 19*s.* 9*d.* as compared with the corresponding date of the previous year.

(D.) Currency.

The amount remitted by the public by means of Government bills of exchange on the Crown Agents showed a decrease of £7,017 1*s.* 3*d.* as compared with the previous year—the figures being £24,248 2*s.* 0*d.* and £31,265 3*s.* 3*d.*, respectively. In my report for 1904 I showed a decrease under this head as compared with 1903 of £9,681 16*s.* 5*d.* Thus in two years we have a falling off in these remittances of no less than £16,698 odd. Against this serious state of affairs we have an increase of £1,201 in the same period in sums remitted to the United Kingdom through the Post Office. This leaves a deficit of remittances by the public for the period named of £15,497.

Commissions amounting to £168 19*s.* 2*d.* were received during the year on bills of exchange, against which a sum of £52 6*s.* 6*d.* was paid to the Imperial Government in remittance charges. The figures in 1904 were £221 12*s.* 11*d.* and £73 12*s.* 6*d.*, respectively.

Specie was exported to the amount of £7,200. There was no import in that line.

(E). Financial Returns.

At the end of this report will be found the following returns touching on matters financial:—

(1.) Revenue for the years 1904 and 1905, showing increases and decreases under the several heads—marked K.

(2.) Expenditure for the years 1904 and 1905, showing increases and decreases under the several heads—marked L.

(3.) Revenue and Expenditure for the last five years, including the year under review—marked M.

(4.) Table of Assets and Liabilities—marked N.

II.—TRADE, AGRICULTURE, AND INDUSTRIES.

(A.) Trade.

A decrease of £1,420 12*s.* 1*d.* as compared with the previous year occurred under the head "Customs"—the figures being £5,719 19*s.* 9*d.* and £7,140 11*s.* 10*d.*, respectively. Decreases occurred under the following sub-heads:—

	£	*s.*	*d.*
Permits	2	10	0
Wharfage	278	6	1
Import dues	1,123	13	9
Tonnage dues	72	2	6

There were increases under two sub-heads, viz.:—"Warehouse Rent £14 15*s.* 3*d.*, and Water £41 5*s.* 0*d.* Attached is a comparative statement (marked O) showing the Customs revenue for the last five years, including the period comprised in this report.

The decrease in revenue is chiefly due to the withdrawal of about half the garrison in the early part of the year under review. It is also due in part to the few vessels that called for stores as compared with 1904. The large number of men thrown out of work on the completion of the Jamestown Drainage and Water Works also adversely affected the Customs revenue in an indirect manner.

The following figures clearly illustrate the serious fall in receipts of specific duties caused chiefly by the reduction of the garrison above referred to:—

—	1905.	1904.	Decrease.
	Gallons.	Gallons.	Gallons.
Spirits	3,571	4,363	792
Wines	4,019	5,105	1,086
	lbs.	lbs.	lbs.
Tobacco ...	9,389	11,183	1,794
	Hhds.	Hhds.	Hhds.
Beer	567	1,082	515
	Dozen.	Dozen.	Dozen.
„	974	1,219	245

The total value of imports was £52,787 as compared with £75,987 in the previous year, showing a decrease of no less than £23,200. These figures are, however, misleading, as in 1904 the Eastern Telegraph Company imported a new cable valued at £15,270. Eliminating this item, we still have a decrease of £7,930.

The chief imports were as follows:—

Articles.	1905.	1904.
	£	£
Oilman's stores	10,131	12,605
Drapery and dry goods	6,551	7,625
Beer	2,535	4,597
Wines	1,210	1,789
Spirits	1,607	1,861
Cigars, cigarettes, and tobacco	1,248	1,852
Flour	3,559	2,829
Sugar	2,184	2,734
Butter	2,544	2,614
Coal	2,250	2,400
Hardware	1,496	2,374
Rice	1,970	2,362
Oilcake, grain, and seed	3,662	1,794
Beef and pork	1,148	1,690
Leather, boots, &c.	1,451	1,641

The above figures speak for themselves. The only two increases, under "Flour" and "Oilcake," were caused by the merchants importing increased quantities of these goods from Australia by the ship "Illawarra," which vessel, it was reported, was making her last voyage between Australia and St. Helena.

There is no regular export trade in St. Helena. It is to be hoped, however, that this evil will be remedied in the near future by success attending the efforts to revive the flax industry and by the hoped-for working of the manganese ore deposits. The total exports for the year amounted to £7,635, of which £7,200 was specie. A large part of the balance was covered by a quantity of household goods belonging to an officer who left the Colony during the year.

Attached to this report is a statement (marked P) showing the value of imports and exports for the last five years, including the year under review.

The expenditure under "Customs" amounted to £776 12*s.* 8*d.* as against £716 5*s.* 4*d.* in 1904. This increase was caused by larger rebates being paid on coal supplied to His Majesty's ships and on beer for the troops than was the case in the previous year.

(B.) Agricultural Industries and Botanical Stations.

The hope expressed in my last Annual Report that a company might be formed in London in order to revive the flax industry in St. Helena was not realised. It looked at one time as if such a company would be formed, but the whole thing eventually fell to the ground. An attempt was, however, made to work the flax and aloe plant by a syndicate of gentlemen in the Colony. Their efforts have unfortunately suffered a reverse owing to the machines imported not having proved satisfactory. The extractor sent out to the syndicate is capable of dealing with leaves up to three feet in length, whereas the St. Helena leaves vary from six to seven feet in length. I am informed that the syndicate referred to do not in any way intend abandoning the project on account of the bad start made, but propose to import machines from New Zealand with the hope that the industry may yet be successfully established. An appeal I made to the Union Castle Steamship Company to carry the fibre home at a reduced rate of freight, at all events until the industry was well started, met with the most generous response, the Company expressing their readiness, in order to encourage the industry, to carry six shipments of 10 tons each free of freight. The Steamship Company's action is to be commended, and is highly appreciated by the public. I am only sorry that it has not yet been possible to make a shipment of fibre under these generous terms. I would add that samples of fibre sent home were very favourably reported on—the flax being quoted at £32 to £33 per ton and the aloe at £33 per ton.

It is difficult to say yet to what extent the "Peach Fly Ordinance, 1904," has had effect, although there is no doubt there was a marked decrease of the fly during the year under

review. It is suggested, however, that the heavy floods of Easter, 1904, caused a decided check to the fly and from which it has not yet recovered. It will be easier in another year to speak more confidently as to the real effect of the Ordinance referred to. There is no doubt that the cutting down of a large number of old fruit trees has tended considerably towards reducing the number of flies, and it was owing to the enactment of the Ordinance in question that growers cut down such trees. The Ordinance may, therefore, fairly be said to have done good, but to what extent remains to be seen. The fact is that the success or otherwise of the Ordinance depends almost entirely on whether or not the fruit-growing community as a whole observe the conditions laid down. The poorer classes of St. Helenians consider that it is useless to fight against any visitation caused by the hand of God. They argue that the peach fly was sent by the Almighty, and that, therefore, it is not likely that any human efforts will get rid of the pest. This is not encouraging, but is very typical of the spirit in which a large number of the community accept adversity.

The year 1905 was not at all a favourable one from an agricultural point of view; this was especially the case in the western division of the Island, where the rainfall was the smallest recorded for over twenty years. The average fall for the past twenty years and more in the western division has been about 29 inches, whereas during 1905 the fall only amounted to 16·5 inches. Other parts of the Island, especially the centre, were better favoured, but the rainfall throughout the Colony was well below the average. Unusual heavy rains in December, when least expected, saved a drought in both pasture and water. The springs were very low at the end of November, but at the end of the year were in a satisfactory state, and will probably continue so until the advent of the summer rains. Very hot and drying weather prevailed in April and May, which in many parts completely destroyed the summer crops. In some cases seed potatoes, imported by the Colonial Government and sold to growers at cost price, were entirely lost. In fact, potatoes generally were a very short crop owing to lack of moisture. In the months of August and September there were scarcely any Island-grown potatoes to be bought, and the price was consequently high. The winter crops were seriously damaged by the dry weather in October. Pasture lands were getting bare by the beginning of December, and cattle, which should then be at their best, were in poor condition. Fortunately, however, the December rains set things right in this direction. Very little hay was made, partly owing to the fact that a large crop was obtained the year before and a quantity still remained on hand from lack of demand. Oaten forage, grown for cattle food, was a short crop, the rain for the first eleven months of the year not allowing it to be made in first-class condition. This crop is used principally upon the farms where it is grown. It was not possible, owing to the

absence of rain when most needed, to grow green vegetables in successive crops as usual. Watering by hand was resorted to, but this is not practicable in every locality. Insects have been very troublesome, especially grubs. Birds are unable to get at these latter pests unless the ground is moved. Cattle have been kept fairly free from ticks, thanks to the mina birds. The presence of these birds probably keeps down insects to a greater extent than is recognised by the general public. On the other hand, the mina has a bad reputation as a killer of young broods, and is in very bad repute with fruit growers.

At the present time the prospects of farming, the only quasi industry in the Island, are far from bright. The removal of the larger part of the garrison, which occurred in March of the year under review, must to a large extent stop the increase of cattle. There being no other market open, cattle owners will have to restrict the breeding or they will be overstocked. The supply is already greater than the demand, and there will not be sufficient pasture for the surplus cattle. The same cause seriously affects all other farm produce.

A large number of young trees were issued to the public free of cost from the plantation nursery during the year. A considerable number, too, were planted by the Government, having been raised in the same nursery. In all about 1,000 forest trees were planted during the year, chiefly consisting of eucalyptus, cedar, Cape yew, Norfolk pine, and deodar. In addition to these a large number of Kaffir thorn trees were planted on the roadsides and waste lands. The year was a bad one for tree culture owing to the lack of rain when most required. The majority of the trees planted by the Government are protected by wire-netting guards, without which it would not be possible to raise trees owing to the presence of innumerable goats and donkeys, who roam at large and who are greater enemies to the trees than is the want of moisture. In fact, it was not until several goats had been shot and many donkeys pounded that the owners thereof could be made to understand that the trees had not been planted with a view to feeding those animals. Wherever possible, the trees were planted in good soil transported from Plantation, and, in spite of the unfavourable conditions existing, the efforts made during the year in tree planting may be considered satisfactory. A certain amount of flax was planted in the vicinity of Half Tree Hollow as an experiment. The plants appear to be doing well. The Government also imported a large number of fruit trees from Cape Colony and sold the same to growers at cost price. Fifty such trees were distributed free of cost to twenty-five poor growers with a view to encouraging fruit culture in the Island. My efforts to induce the St. Helenians to experiment with cotton seed, referred to in my report for 1904, failed. It is most difficult to get anyone in St. Helena to interest themselves in such matters. The Government has from time to time in the

last three years distributed free of cost large quantities of seeds and trees, but in hardly any case can I ever get the recipients to report how such seeds and trees thrive unless I enquire into the matter personally. This is not an encouraging state of affairs. The fact is, the St. Helenian prefers taking things easy and trusts to Providence that everything will turn out right in the long run. I do not say there are not exceptions to this rule, but my remarks, unfortunately, apply to a large majority of the Islanders.

Fruit to the value of £28 7*s.* 1½*d.* was sold during the year from the Maldivia Garden in Jamestown. Fallen and dead trees for fuel realised £6 15*s.* 6*d.* during the same period.

(C.) Fisheries.

The attempt made by an ex-Boer to run a fish-curing establishment proved a failure. There was little or no sale for the fish locally, and the freight charges would not allow a reasonable profit being made on the article in the Cape market.

(D.) Shipping.

Returns are attached hereto; one (marked Q) being a comparative statement of shipping, entered and cleared, for the last five years, including the year under review, and the other (marked R) being a general abstract of vessels that touched at the port of Jamestown during the same period.

These returns are sad reading, showing, as they do, no cessation of the decline in the number of vessels that call at St. Helena from year to year. In past years the shipping was the mainstay of the Island generally. In fact, in the old days of St. Helena's prosperity the greater part of the revenue was derived from the shipping, especially in the way of wharfage on the cargoes of leaking ships.

Referring to the first return (Q) named above, 40 vessels, representing a tonnage of 206,690 tons, entered and cleared with cargo and in ballast. There was one vessel only in the latter category. The number of tons of cargo brought by these vessels amounted to 5,008, a decrease of 1,370 tons as compared with the previous year—a heavy percentage for so short a period and a clear sign of the evil days that have come to this small and ancient Colony. It will be noted that the number of vessels referred to was less than half the number that called in 1901.

Taking the return marked R, 99 vessels called at the port of Jamestown and were boarded by the Harbour Master out of a total of 212 vessels sighted during the year. Another 29 were communicated with by licensed traders. It will be

observed that the number of vessels dealt with in this return is less by eight than those boarded in 1904. The tonnage shows a corresponding drop of 11,928 tons; this decrease falls principally under British steamships. The annual falling off in the number of vessels has been proportionately larger in the case of British than foreign vessels. There was also a decrease as compared with the previous year of five warships and transports, but an increase of two British man-of-war. Only two foreign warships called, viz., the French cruiser "Dupleix," flying the flag of Rear-Admiral Boué de Lapeyrère, and the Spanish corvette "Nautilus."

I stated above that 29 passing ships were communicated with by licensed traders during the year. "The Passing Ships Ordinance, 1886," was made inoperative during the time the Boer prisoners-of-war were interned in St. Helena, because it gave boatmen and others, who boarded vessels many miles from land, free access to ships that were not subject to the special restrictions imposed on all calling vessels during that period. The Ordinance was, however, re-enacted in 1904, with certain modifications, thereby giving these licensed traders the privilege of boarding and trading with vessels not actually touching at the port. By this means such vessels obtain fresh vegetables, &c., and are able to post letters. During 1905 there were 201 letters posted from this source as against 264 in the previous year. The number of letters to be posted is in every case entered by the master of the vessel on a form presented to him by the trader, which form is delivered up by the latter on his arrival ashore. By this method a safe check is afforded against the non-delivery of such letters. The number of ships boarded by these traders during the year was less by seven than during the year 1904.

III.—LEGISLATION.

Seven Ordinances were enacted and two Proclamations issued during the year under review.

The most important Ordinances were:—

No. 2.—"The Small Debts Ordinance," relating to the recovery of small debts. Jurisdiction increased from £10 to £25. This law was found necessary, as there are no legal practitioners in the Colony to conduct cases in the Higher Court, and the St. Helenian has an aversion to pleading his own cause in that court, the result being that many debtors escaped where the amounts claimed exceeded £10.

No. 3.—"The Customs Ordinance." The enactment of this Ordinance was undertaken with a view to consolidating all laws

relating to the Customs and to present such laws in a comprehensive and compact form. The new Ordinance repealed five old Ordinances, ranging from 1853 to 1895, and the Order-in-Council of 11th July, 1839. The tariff remains as under the old laws of 1864 and 1882. Specific duties are levied on wines, spirits, beer, and tobacco; all other goods pay rates of wharfage according to the measurement and size of the outer coverings.

No. 4.—"The Stallion Donkeys Ordinance." This Ordinance aims at ensuring the effectual control of stallion donkeys with a view to improving the breed of donkeys in St. Helena. A Board of Inspectors was appointed under the Ordinance with powers to exempt from castration any stallion donkeys they considered useful for breeding purposes, the owners of such donkeys being given a "certificate of exemption." The Ordinance came into force on January 1st, 1906, but was enacted six months before that date in order to allow the Board of Inspectors to select those stallions which they considered fit for breeding purposes, and to give plenty of time for owners to have those animals castrated which either did not pass the exemption test, or for which they did not intend to take out a licence. Only about 12 stallions received certificates of exemption, whilst licences (of 10*s.* for the year) were taken out by owners in 15 cases on the Ordinance coming into force. The inspectors carried out their work of selection most judiciously. In proof of this fact, there has not been a single appeal instituted against their decisions. Owners of stallion donkeys, having accepted the necessity, had their jacks taken to appointed places in different parts of the Island, and the work of castration was in nearly every case performed gratuitously by operators appointed by the Government, and without cost to the owners. Over 250 stallions were operated on before the Ordinance came into force. The losses were very few. It is generally recognised that the Ordinance is already a decided success. Mare donkeys and foals, which were formerly chased by stallions all over the hill sides, now have the quiet time which is so necessary for the rearing of the foal. The ill-feeling, which was so prevalent formerly, caused by neighbour's stallion donkeys fighting and killing each other, no longer exists. Even those persons most opposed to the Ordinance at first, have to admit that it is a good one, and fully recognise the wisdom of the somewhat drastic measures which had to be taken in order to make the Ordinance a complete success. The full benefits of the Ordinance will become more apparent every year as time goes on.

No. 6.—"The Weights and Measures Ordinance." This Ordinance repealed the one of 1884, which had the great drawback in that it entailed a duty on the sheriff and justices of the peace of visiting the shops, &c., with the police constables —a duty that appeared to be seldom, if ever, performed. The police magistrate, however, performed the duty on a few

occasions and afterwards adjudicated on any cases. This state of affairs was objectionable and necessitated the enactment of a new Ordinance.

No. 7.—"The Port Health Ordinance." This Ordinance is framed on the lines mapped out at the Barbados Convention and in accordance with the spirit of the Paris Convention of 1903. Old ideas of quarantine and its comparative value as a method of protection against the introduction of disease have been replaced by the more modern idea of relying almost entirely on disinfection and isolation of the sick, and reducing "quarantine" to a minimum. In fact, the word "quarantine" disappears entirely from the Ordinance, the term "observation" taking its place.

IV.—EDUCATION.

The amount expended during the year under "Education" was £711, as against £615 in 1904, the increase being caused by the employment of more pupil teachers and by the fact that Mr. Tucker was present in the Colony for only a part of 1904. This does not include the cost of erecting new class-rooms or of carrying out many repairs in the schools. Such expenditure is dealt with under the "Public Works Department."

There were eight schools open during the year, or one less than in 1904. This decrease was caused by a reorganisation of the Government Town Shools, by which the Boys' Town School, the Girls' Town School, and the Infants' School ceased to exist, their places being taken by the Senior Town School and the Junior Town School, the infants being admitted into the latter establishment. By this new method, which came into operation on the 1st March of the year under review, the scholars in each school were mixed instead of boys and girls being relegated to different schools. The great object aimed at in this division was to economise the teaching power of the staff and also to bring the senior boys and girls under the instruction of Mr. Tucker, a trained teacher, who arrived in the Colony in 1904. Another decided advantage gained by the new arrangement was that the junior children, as well as the infants, were brought under the influence and care of lady teachers—a plan that has issued in the happiest results. As the Inspector of Schools remarks, such results cannot fail to prove a great factor in the general improvement of the youth of Jamestown, both intellectually and morally.

The total number of children attending the schools was 654, of which 322 were boys. The figures in the previous year were 646 and 325, respectively. The small increase of eight in the total is accounted for by the fact that the school buildings are

filled to their utmost capacity; in fact, in several cases they are crammed. This evil was remedied as far as two of the Government Schools were concerned by the erection of a class-room at both the Senior Town School and the Country School. Even with this additional accommodation the latter school is full to overflowing.

The Inspector of Schools reports that there is a general improvement apparent in the method employed in teaching; this especially applies in a marked degree to the two Government Town Schools. This improvement is particularly noticeable on the part of the younger teachers. The consequence is that an advance has been made in the standard of work brought up by the scholars for examination. This improvement is very gratifying, and is chiefly due to the effort made to substitute the method of oral instruction for the old-fashioned way of teaching by means of text-books. As I said before, the greatest advance in the way of education has been made in the Government Town Schools which have the advantage of trained teachers to superintend them. On this point the Inspector of Schools remarks:—"The Senior Town School, after nearly a twelvemonth's work, presents at last to the Island a school worked on approved principles, whose scholars have a decided advantage over those who attend the other schools, and which, it is possible, may in the future advance beyond the elementary stage to secondary or higher education."

Classes for pupil teachers, under Mr. Tucker, were started during the last quarter of the year. These classes are proving to be an excellent innovation as a means of instruction in the art of teaching.

The Colonial Surgeon gave a course of weekly lectures on elementary hygiene during two months of the year under review. The course was arranged for school teachers and was well attended throughout. The lectures were illustrated by lantern slides, which proved of great value in upholding the interest of the class. The greatest object of these lectures was to give the teachers a grasp of the simple laws of health, so that they might impress the same upon the children as opportunity offered, giving practical illustrations by the airing of school-rooms, and insisting on the great importance of the cleanliness of children by careful attention to hair, teeth, nails, &c. An examination in hygiene was held at the end of the year for the Government School pupil teachers. Two-thirds of those who entered passed the examination, and the answering was excellent. A daily object lesson of great benefit to the children is insisted on in all the Government Schools; the school-rooms are aired at the end of each lesson and the children given a rest for five or ten minutes before the next lesson is commenced. By this means both teachers and scholars are given a lesson in simple physiology, as they learn that these short

intervals give rest to the brain and a renewed supply of pure air for the blood.

The Attendance Officer reports 28 prosecutions and 24 convictions during the year under the Education Ordinance for non-attendance. This shows a decrease of 30 prosecutions and 9 convictions as compared with the previous year. There were only two cases where a parent or guardian was prosecuted twice for failing to comply with the terms of the Ordinance. The attendance generally showed a marked improvement over the previous year—a noticeable feature being the increase in attendance of children living beyond a two-mile radius of any school, and the number of children above the school age who attended the several schools.

All the schools were closed for a few weeks during the year, between June and August, owing to an epidemic of measles which prevailed throughout the Colony.

The School Board continued its useful work throughout the year, but was unfortunate in losing the services of its energetic honorary secretary, the Reverend T. Aitken, who left the Colony in December. Mr. Aitken's successor in St. Helena, the Reverend W. J. Buchanan, kindly consented to take over the duties of honorary secretary to the Board.

The children were given "outings" on His Majesty's birthday and on "Empire Day" (May 24th). On the latter occasion the flag was saluted in due form. The Howard Vincent Empire map was introduced into the schools during the year with a view to illustrate to the children the vastness of the British Empire and to impress upon them the bond they have to guard in their capacity as citizens of that Empire. The lectures on the map are divided into sections and are made as interesting as possible.

I think I have plainly shown that a decided advance in education was made during the year under review, thus confirming the views expressed by me on this point in my last Annual Report. There is, however, still plenty of room for further improvement.

V.—GOVERNMENT INSTITUTIONS.

(A.) Hospitals.

The number of patients admitted to the Civil Hospital during the year under review was 127—77 men and 50 women—being an increase of 15 as compared with 1904.

There were 15 deaths amongst the admissions as compared with 3 in the previous year, giving a mortality of 11·8 per cent. as contrasted with 2·6 per cent. in 1904. The Colonial Surgeon explains that this high mortality is accounted for by the fact that an unusual number of those who died were in a more or less hopeless condition on admission, but that their removal to hospital, however, from impoverished homes, no doubt, mitigated much suffering.

The Lady Superintendent went on four months' of well-earned leave of absence in March. Her duties during that time were, as the Colonial Surgeon reports, admirably performed by Miss Wormald, the senior on the nursing staff.

The expenditure incurred under the head "Medical" amounted to £1,362 during the year, being an increase of £20 as compared with 1904.

(B.) Savings Bank.

A profit to the bank of £289 17*s.* 8*d.* resulted on the year's transactions. The revenue amounted to £1,014 12*s.* 11*d.*, interest on moneys invested. The expenditure was £724 15*s.* 3*d.*, viz.:—Salary of Manager, £40; and interest to depositors, £684 15*s.* 3*d.*

The number of depositors during the year under review was 177, and the amount deposited £2,114 4*s.* 0*d.*, as against 190 depositors and £4,641 13*s.* 0*d.* deposited in 1904. £4,850 9*s.* 3*d.* was withdrawn from the bank during the year, being £349 8*s.* 3*d.* less than in the previous year. Thus the withdrawals during 1905 exceeded the deposits by £2,736 5*s.* 3*d.* General depression in trade accounts to a large extent for the large amount withdrawn. Then again, householders had to meet the repayments to the Government of moneys advanced in connection with the house connections and services under the Jamestown Drainage and Water Works Schemes. About one-fifth of the total withdrawn fell to one depositor who invested the amount in landed property in St. Helena, thus showing that land is still a good investment. Very few depositors left the Island during the year under review, and the manager of the bank considers it safe to say that nine-tenths of the withdrawals were spent in the Colony.

The bank's reserve amounted on the 31st December, 1905, to £26,057 6*s.* 0*d.*, being £2,040 9*s.* 8*d.* less than on the corresponding date of the previous year.

It is anticipated that the deposits will continue decreasing unless something turns up to foster trade. The manager predicts that at least £3,000 of the reserve will be withdrawn during 1906 by depositors leaving the Island, and he expresses the opinion that the reserve will fall below £20,000 in a very few years.

VI.—JUDICIAL STATISTICS.

(A.) Criminal Statistics.

Supreme Court.—Only three cases came before the Supreme Court during the year under review. Two young men—Louis and Richard Crowie—were found guilty of murder and were sentenced to death at the January Sessions. The sentence on each was carried out on the 2nd February, 1905. These two criminals were the only felons upon whom the extreme penalty of the law had been carried out in St. Helena for over fifty years. In the October Sessions a negress was sentenced to four months' imprisonment with hard labour for sending letters demanding money with menaces.

Police Court.—The number of convictions in this Court during the year was ten less than in the previous year, the figures being 153 and 163, respectively.

They are classed as follows:—

—	1905.	1904.
Assaults and other offences against the person	10	16
Malicious injury to property	—	1
Offences, other than malicious, against property ...	23	6
Offences against highways	35	8
Offences against the Education Ordinance	24	33
Other offences, such as soliciting, drunkenness, &c. ...	61	99
Totals	153	163

There were very few cases of petty theft. There were no offences by seamen under the Merchant Shipping Act or otherwise. There was a decided decrease in the number of offences connected with drunkenness. This is partly accounted for by the large number of people out of employment who have been debarred by want of funds from purchasing liquor. There is no doubt, too, that the Friendly Societies have a great moral hold over their members of both sexes.

(B.) Prisons.

The actual number of prisoners admitted to the gaol during the year under review showed a decrease on the previous year.

On the 1st January, 1905, there were three prisoners undergoing sentence and two awaiting trial at the Assizes. The admittances during the year amounted to 39 (of which 16 were women), including remanded prisoners. On the other hand, 38 prisoners (of which 15 were women) were discharged during the same period, and two were executed. Thus on the 31st December, 1905, there were three men and one woman undergoing sentence. The daily average number in gaol during the year was 3·65.

The health of the prisoners and the sanitary condition of the gaol were excellent.

(C.) Police Force.

The inspector's report as to the conduct of the police and the efficiency of the force was generally satisfactory. The strength of the force remained as heretofore, but a considerable reduction therein took place on the 1st January, 1906, when an entire reorganisation of the force was effected. It is very difficult in St. Helena to get the right type of man for the post of police constable. A system is therefore being given a trial by which it is hoped that, with increased supervision, greater efficiency will be secured with a less number of police constables. Special constables will be sworn in when the occasion requires it.

The number of offences noticed by, or reported to, the police during the year was approximately the same as in 1905—the numbers being 310 and 320, respectively, a decrease of ten. Of the 310 cases, 195 were dealt with by the Magistrate, and 115 enquired into and settled by the police.

Four boys were sentenced to whipping by the Police Magistrate during the year. Such sentences are always carried out under the supervision of the Inspector of Police.

VII.—VITAL STATISTICS.

(A.) Population.

There was a small increase in the civil population during the year, the total on the 31st December, 1905, amounting to 3,512 as against 3,458 on the same date in 1904. The strength of the garrison on the same date was 211 with 58 women and children, making a total population of 3,781.

The emigrants exceeded the immigrants by 16. The figures being 85 and 69, respectively.

There were 136 births (of which 26 were illegitimate) during the year, of which 124 were among the civil population. This shows an increase of 14 over the previous year.

The number of deaths amounted to 56; this figure includes two soldiers and one seaman, also two men who were executed for murder. The total number of deaths in 1904 was 52. The death-rate is given below under the head of "Public Health." Eighteen marriages were solemnised during the year as against 29 in 1904.

(B.) Public Health.

The death-rate was practically the same as in the previous year. The Colonial Surgeon reports that the health of the Colony remained satisfactory during the year under review. There were 56 deaths in all, of which 53 were among the civil population. In the latter category, as stated above, were two men who were executed for murder during the year and who are not, therefore, taken into account in arriving at the death-rate. The ordinary death-rate for the year amongst the civil population works out at 14·5 per 1,000 as against 14·4 in 1904.

The chief event of the year from a public health point of view was an outbreak of measles which assumed epidemic form over the greater part of the Colony. The disease was imported in March by a non-commissioned officer and his family, who were suffering from the disease on arrival. They were isolated by the Military Authorities in their quarters in Jamestown, but in April cases appeared among the civil population, and the disease rapidly spread. The number of persons attacked exceeded 500, the last case being reported on August 28th. Only one death took place during the actual epidemic. This was the case of a patient, aged 52, who died of pneumonia and who was also the subject of malignant disease. One other death might be, in the Colonial Surgeon's opinion, attributable to the epidemic, that of a patient, aged 57, who died, some weeks after recovery from measles complicated with penumonia, from heart failure, due to the presence of a fatty heart. This would give a death-rate of 0·4 per cent. Dr. Arnold considers that

this low mortality is noteworthy, especially when it is considered that the type of the disease was quite as severe as is ordinarily met with at home, and that the temperature during the onset rose in a large number of cases to 150° and further taking into consideration the fact that sixteen years had elapsed since the last epidemic of measles in St. Helena. It is true that a few cases of measles were imported amongst the Boer prisoners in 1901, but these cases were very strictly isolated and the disease did not spread beyond the confines of the Boer Hospital in Jamestown, with the result that none of the inhabitants caught the infection. The south-west district of the Island was the only one which practically escaped the epidemic of 1905, one single case occurring. The Colonial Surgeon explains that this was due to the facts that the district is an isolated one, the houses therein are very scattered, and the Country School was closed before a case had occurred amongst the scholars.

(C.) Sanitary.

The new system of drainage and water-supply for Jamestown was completed during the year. This places Jamestown in the front rank of towns as regards sanitary arrangements. In fact, for its size and population, Jamestown probably compares most favourably with any town in the British Empire in this particular respect. The very poorest tenements are provided with the most modern water-closet fittings, and a branch from the main conveys the purest spring water to every house. When contrasted with the deplorable condition which previously prevailed, Jamestown is now in a particularly fortunate position so far as an excellent drainage and water system is concerned. It would be extremely regrettable if neglect or carelessness on the part of the inhabitants should lead to the introduction of dangers inseparable from any system of drainage that is allowed to get out of repair. The Health Officer, however, reports that so far there is no indication of this, and that the inhabitants as a whole appear to appreciate the benefits of the new scheme, and are anxious to maintain it in good working order.

A state of overcrowding in many houses, and defective ventilation in a greater number, point to the direction in which there are still much needed improvements. On the other hand, great improvements were made in the ventilation and accommodation of the Government Schools, adding greatly to the well-being and health of the children and their teachers.

The Health Officer recommends an increase in the number of scavengers employed. This is, no doubt, very desirable in order to maintain the roadways in that state of cleanliness that is so desirable in a warm climate. The Colonial Government, however, is not in a position as regards funds to introduce the improvement at present.

Useful work was done by the Board of Health during the year under review. The Board held monthly meetings under the chairmanship of the Colonial Surgeon, Dr. Arnold, who is indefatigable in his efforts to improve sanitation. He is well supported by the Acting Sanitary Inspector, Mr. Pegge, who is assiduous in the execution of his duties, and who has been very successful in bringing to light sanitary irregularities.

A new Port Health Ordinance was enacted during the year, which is referred to under the head of "Legislation."

There were 211 vaccinations during the year, the invariable practice being to make four marks. Of this number 96 per cent. were successful.

Under the head "Education" I have referred to a course of lectures on elementary hygiene having been delivered during the year by Dr. Arnold to the teachers of the several schools. As the Colonial Surgeon remarks, great benefit cannot fail to follow the teaching of the first principles of hygiene in the schools of the Colony as it is henceforth intended shall be done. The regular airing of the school-rooms, after each lesson, also referred to under "Education," was adopted on the recommendation of the Colonial Surgeon. By this system the children are given a ten minutes' interval for recreation in the open air after each lesson. There is no doubt that two of the main evils of school life are confinement in a vitiated atmosphere and the overstrain of powers of attention, which evils are disastrous to the age of childhood. The system now observed in the schools will largely obviate the evils named, and cannot but improve the stamina of the rising generation.

(D.) Climate.

There is only one regular meteorological station in the Island, which is at Hutt's Gate at an altitude of 1,900 feet. Records of temperature and rainfall are also kept at the Castle in Jamestown, and two residents keep regular records of the rainfall.

Hutt's Gate.

Barometer.—The mean pressure was 28·123 inches as compared with 28·139 in the previous year.

Temperature.—The mean temperature was 61·1° as against 60·4° in 1904. The maximum recorded was 80° on the 27th April. In the previous year this record was 77·6°. The lowest maximum was registered on the 3rd August, being 67°. The absolute minimum was 51°, recorded on the 4th and 14th September, as compared with 49·6° on 21st August, 1904.

Rainfall.—The total fall amounted to 32·45 inches, being a decrease of 13·28 inches on the previous year. The heaviest

fall was 1·87 inches on the 8th December. The number of days on which rain fell was 256, being only one less than in 1904.

Wind.—The recording portion of the anemograph was under repair in England during the first five months of the year. The record here given is, therefore, only for the last seven months of the year, commencing with the 1st June. The mean force of the wind was 2·6, which is equivalent to 14 miles, the same as in the previous year, when it was actually 2·5. The direction of the wind was as follows:—

S.S.E.	...	...	...	...	153 days.
E.S.E.	...	...	...	...	12 ,,
E.	...	...	...	...	2 ,,
S.	...	...	...	...	3 ,,
S.E.	...	...	...	...	38 ,,
Calm	...	...	...	...	6 ,,

Jamestown.

Temperature.—The mean temperature for the year was 73·6° as against 72·6° in 1904. The maximum temperature of 83° was recorded on May 11th as against 81° on the 1st February in the previous year. The minimum temperature was registered on the 12th September, being 66° as compared with 65° recorded on the 27th July, 10th August, and 4th September in 1904.

Rainfall.—From the 22nd May (the date on which the rain-gauge was brought into use) to the end of the year the rainfall amounted to 3·92 inches. There were 51 days on which rain fell during that period, the maximum fall being ·43 inches on the 8th December.

The rainfall at Oak Bank, situated 1½ miles due west of Hutt's Gate, was 38·41 inches for the year under review as against 48·02 inches in 1904.

The fall at Woodlands, situated in the western district of the Island, two miles W.S.W. of Oak Bank, amounted to only 16·51 inches as against 30·47 inches in 1904.

The record of the rainfall in the four cases given, point to a marked difference in the fall in different localities. The Honourable George Moss, of Woodlands, informs me that the 1905 rainfall in that district is the smallest ever recorded by him in a period of over twenty years.

VIII.—POSTAL, TELEGRAPH, AND TELEPHONE SERVICES.

(A.) Postal.

The gross revenue from all sources amounted to £767 1*s.* 8*d.*, a decrease of £933 14*s.* 9*d.* as compared with the previous year. £817 odd of this decrease is accounted for by that amount being realised by the sale of the entire stock of the Victorian issues of stamps in the latter part of 1904. The further decrease of £115 may be put down to the reduction in the garrison which took place early in the year by the withdrawal of the infantry detachment. Another cause for the decrease referred to is owing to the fact that the Colony possesses only eight values of postage stamps as against twenty values in 1904. The consequence is that the demands for stamps by non-residents fell off considerably during the year under review.

The expenditure amounted to £400 2*s.* 11*d.*, being £14 15*s.* 10*d.* less than in 1904. This small decrease is due to retrenchments made in the sorting department and in the expense of the land-carriage of mails.

The following figures show the mail matter that passed through the Post Office during the year under review as compared with the previous year:—

From the United Kingdom.

—	1905.	1904.
Bags of mails	251	291
Registered articles	597	728
Parcels	2,235	2,561
Insured letters	1	1

To the United Kingdom.

—	1905.	1904.
Bags of mails	91	90
Letters, ordinary	20,331	25,523
Postcards	12,507	12,670
Newspapers and other packets	2 729	2,936
Parcels	244	281
Registered articles	2,108	2,073
Insured letters	—	1

From South Africa.

—	1905.	1904.
Bags of mails	65	75
Parcels	171	202
Registered articles	310	328

To South Africa.

—	1905.	1904.
Bags of mails	79	65
Letters, ordinary	13,943	12,548
Postcards	1,998	1,363
Newspapers and other packets	2,276	2,239
Parcels	127	176
Registered articles	274	278

The figures given in the first two tables above include postal matter to and from the Islands of Ascension, Teneriffe, and Las Palmas, which forms a very small proportion of the totals. The figures for the United Kingdom show a general decrease for 1905 as compared with the previous year, the most noticeable item being a decrease of over 5,300 in the number of letters and postcards despatched. On the other hand, there was an increase of over 2,000 in the number of those articles despatched to South Africa as compared with 1904.

The following is a synopsis of the last two years' (including the year under review) transactions in money and postal orders:—

—	1905.	1904.
	£	£
To United Kingdom ...	5,109	4,660
From United Kingdom ...	434	402
To South Africa	629	705
From South Africa ...	613	820
	6,785	6,587

The increase of £373 in orders despatched from the Colony during the year would under ordinary circumstances lead one to think that such increase pointed to increased prosperity. This, however, is unfortunately not the case. The increase is entirely due to the trading community taking advantage of remitting money to the United Kingdom by means of money

orders in preference to taking out bills of exchange on the Crown Agents. The maximum amount issued in one order is £40, which money is paid at sight. On the other hand, bills of exchange are at three days' sight. As I have already pointed out under the head of "Currency" in the early part of this report, although the remittances by the public to the United Kingdom by means of money and postal orders showed an increase over similar remittances in 1904, on the other hand the amount remitted by means of bills of exchange showed a corresponding decrease of no less than £7,017.

Commissions to the amount of £50 11*s.* 1*d.* were received on money and postal orders during the year as against £60 in 1904. This decrease was more than covered under the head of "Money Orders," whereas there was an increase under commissions on postal orders as compared with the previous year to the extent of £8 11*s.* 0*d.* This fact is accounted for by the public preferring remitting by postal orders in the case of small sums of money. The postal order system was introduced into the Colony in October, 1904. Calculation shows that the Colony lost about £20 in commission for the year under review by the existence of the postal order system, presuming that the same amount would have been remitted by money order, had the former system not been in force. The difference in the rates of commission charged on the two kinds of orders is as follows:—

Money Orders.—From 6*d.* to £2 a commission of 6*d.* is charged.

Postal Orders.

Value.	Commission.
6*d.* to 1*s.* 6*d.*	1*d.*
2*s.* to 10*s.* 6*d.*	2*d.*
11*s.* to 21*s.*	3*d.*

In the case of money order commissions, the Colony pays the United Kingdom one-half per cent. commission, and half of the commission in the case of postal orders.

The following British Possessions introduced the system of Imperial postal orders during the year:—British Guiana, Natal, Orange River Colony, Transvaal, Falkland Islands, Bahamas, Lagos, Malta, Mauritius, India (including Aden), and British Bushire. Egypt, Zanzibar, and the Indian Field Post Office in North China also introduced the system.

(B.) TELEGRAPHS AND TELEPHONES.

Telegraphs.—The Eastern Telegraph Company's tariff remained practically the same as in 1905, with the exception of a slight reduction in the cost of messages to Egypt. On the 31st December, 1905, the Company's staff numbered 42, being an increase of no less than 14, as compared with the previous year.

Telephones.—There were 50½ miles of wire under the Administrative system open for traffic during the year, and 31 miles under the command system. The upkeep of the service cost £409, towards which the Colonial Government contributed £45. A sum of £12 18*s.* 4*d.* was received from the public for private messages. The number of official messages dealt with during the year was 3,596, being less than half the number in 1904. The number of private messages amounted to 683 as against 1,628 in the previous year. There were eight public telephone offices open during the year, two of which were in private houses. The number of private telephones was thirteen. The staff consisted of 12 employés, including signalmen employed in the three signal stations, which are also telephone offices.

The telephone system is entirely controlled by the Imperial Government.

IX.—MILITARY FORCES AND EXPENDITURE.

The actual strength of the garrison on the 31st December, 1905, was eight officers, two warrant officers, and 201 rank and file, being slightly less than one-half the strength on the corresponding date of the previous year. The number of men decreases every month owing to the departure of time-expired men and other details whose places are not being filled. By the 1st April, 1906, this steady decline will have reduced the garrison to about 170 of all ranks.

I am not in a position to report favourably on the progress made by the St. Helena Volunteers during the year under review. The withdrawal of the regular infantry from the Colony had a marked adverse effect on the keenness of the members of the corps. There is a feeling among the community generally, and especially among the volunteers, that the existence of this local corps was one of the reasons for the withdrawal of the infantry—the idea being that the War Office Authorities consider the volunteers to be sufficient infantry for mobilisation purposes. It was this very feeling which prevented a successful effort being made some years ago to raise a local

militia in St. Helena. As the Volunteers look upon the withdrawal of the infantry in this light, it is not to be wondered at that the spirit of keenness that had previously been shown by the majority of the corps has been seriously affected. The members are almost entirely drawn from the labouring class, which class has suffered severely by the reduction of the garrison, and of which a very large number are now out of employment. In fact, the present state of the labour market is one of grave concern, and it is the general testimony of the older inhabitants that a darker period in the history of St. Helena cannot be remembered by them. In the early "seventies" the garrison was slightly less than it was on the 31st December, 1905, but in those days between 650 and 800 ships called at the port of Jamestown during the year, whereas in the year under review the number was 99, the lowest on record. The strength of the Volunteers on the 31st December, 1905, was three officers and 71 rank and file. Only 64 per cent. of the men proved efficient during the year in arms and musketry. The Rifle Association connected with the corps fell through early in the year owing to lack of support by the members. The annual Easter camp was held, but the absence of regular troops did not allow of any really useful and interesting work being done—the two working days in camp being chiefly taken up with skirmishing drill and practice in extended order. Lieutenant H. Winterbotham, R.E., the Adjutant of the Corps, resigned his post at the end of the year owing to his approaching departure from the Island. This officer during his two years of office did his best to promote efficiency, but found the task a very difficult one during the latter part of the period under review. He received every assistance from Lieutenant Hands and 2nd Lieutenant Pegge, Officers of the Corps. The fact, however, remains that an improved state of affairs cannot well be looked for unless relief of a fairly permanent nature comes to the labouring classes. The cost of maintaining the corps during the year amounted to £153.

X.—GENERAL OBSERVATIONS.

Roads.

The length of country roads kept under repair by the Imperial Government was 37½ miles for wheel traffic and 25¾ miles for infantry and pack animals, the expenditure amounting to £500.

The expenditure incurred by the Colonial Government in the upkeep of the streets in Jamestown amounted to £57 7*s.* 3*d.*

Public Works of Importance carried out in the whole or in part during the Year.

The year 1905 saw the completion of the Jamestown Drainage and Water Works Schemes. These works were commenced in August, 1902, and completed in December, 1905. The greatest credit is due to Mr. G. S. Chisholm, the Engineer-in-Charge, who superintended the works from start to finish. He worked indefatigably, and successfully overcame difficulties which are especially peculiar to St. Helena, particularly as regards the dearth of skilled labour.

Attached to this report is a return (marked U), giving a complete statement of expenditure incurred in connection with the main sewers, water mains, house connections, and house services.

Land Grants and General Value of Land.

There were three grants of land made during the year under review—a rent of 2*s.* 6*d.* a year being imposed in each case. The number of transfers of land during the same period amounted to seven, and were effected by the approval of the Commissioners of Crown Property.

The value of land showed no change.

The total rents of Government properties amounted to £944 8*s.* 1*d.*, being a slight increase over the rents collected in the previous year.

Rate of Wages and Cost of Living.

The rate of wages and cost of living remained the same as in the previous year, except towards the last few months of that period, when labourers were only too glad to take 2*s.* a day. A large number of the people, for want of employment, only had an existence, and looking at the question in that light, the cost of living in such cases was less. The Friendly Societies were called upon to afford relief to an extent not before remembered by the members thereof. Many members of these societies, owing entirely to hard times, were struck off the roll during the year owing to their inability to pay their weekly subscriptions. In one society alone, "The Working Men's Christian Association," twelve members suffered in this way—mostly aged men who are too old to be admitted into other societies.

Departments and Institutions.

The Public Works and the Printing Departments are the only two departments not dealt with under special heads.

The work of the Printing Department was handicapped owing to the absence of the printer, through illness, for the last few months of the year. This official, Mr. C. W. Bruce, retired on a pension at the close of the year, after a service of 29 years under the St. Helena Government. In spite of the printer's absence referred to, very satisfactory work was performed by the department concerned. The assistant printer, Mr. Adams, proved himself to be a useful man in an emergency, and he received great assistance from time to time from Mr. B. E. Grant, the post office clerk, and was thus enabled to turn out a large amount of work. Mr. Grant succeeded Mr. Bruce as Government printer on the 1st January, 1906. Nearly three times the amount of paper was used as compared with the previous year—the figures being 39¼ and 14¼ reams, respectively. A considerable amount of paper was used in printing the many forms required under the new Customs Ordinance which was enacted during the year under review.

The Public Works Department had a satisfactory record of work during the year. Owing to the want of funds no attempt was made to carry out any extraordinary works other than those connected with the Jamestown Drainage and Water Works Schemes, which are dealt with under a separate head. The total expenditure under "Public Works Recurrent" amounted to £1,710 14*s.* 10*d.*; of this amount £341 8*s.* 1*d.* was expended under the sub-head "Water," and £720 12*s.* 3*d.* under "Repairs to buildings and furniture, and purchase of stores for sale." The maintenance of the main water service pipes outside Jamestown requires continual expenditure owing to the leaky state of the piping. Constant patching and tinkering of these pipes is necessary in order to ensure ordinary efficiency. A considerable number of additions and useful repairs were carried out in connection with the Government School Houses—two class-rooms being built, and new floors being laid in two of the schools. The lavatory and latrine accommodation in all the schools was greatly improved. Improvements were made in the Civil Hospital as regards the exits to and from the new verandah. New floors were laid in the post and printing offices, and new roofs provided to the oil store and Castle balcony, whilst a room was erected to house the disinfector.

Other items of expenditure in this department which call for no special remarks were:—Scavenging of Jamestown, £183 18*s.* 7*d.*; upkeep of town roads, £57 7*s.* 3*d.*; furniture for public buildings, £39 5*s.* 1*d.*; forests and gardens, £230 0*s.* 3*d.*

A sum of £409 17*s.* 8*d.* was realised during the year by the sale of stores, of which cypress timber accounted for £264 7*s.* 7*d.*; the figures in the previous year were £879 10*s.* 2*d.* and £523 9*s.* 4*d.*, respectively.

Below are given receipts and expenditure for the last five years of the Poor Board and Public Market:—

Poor Board.

Year.	Revenue.	Expenditure
	£	£
1901	933	855
1902	897	899
1903	829	821
1904	872	855
1905	881	881

Public Market.

Year.	Revenue.	Expenditure.
	£	£
1901	242	173
1902	197	186
1903	124	194
1904	325	208
1905	144	250

Miscellaneous.

The prosperity of the Colony, already waning, received a severe and unlooked-for blow through the withdrawal of the entire infantry garrison in the early part of the year under review. Something like consternation was caused among the people of the Island when they learnt that the Imperial Government had decided not to replace the Lancashire Fusilier detachment. This reduction of a small garrison by more than half its numbers meant a very serious financial loss to the trading community and to farmers. In fact, the whole community has suffered thereby. Ever since the shipping calling at St. Helena was reduced to a minimum, the slight prosperity enjoyed by the inhabitants has been dependent almost entirely on the presence of the troops.

The loss referred to to an already poor community can only be regarded in a most serious light. The reduction of the garrison, too, came at a most unfortunate time. A large number of men were thrown out of employment on the completion of the Jamestown Drainage and Water Works Schemes. The final decision of the Admiralty not to undertake the extension and repairs to the wharf, crushed the hopes that had been

raised of employment being found for even more than the number of men referred to above. By the end of the year under review the number of unemployed men caused grave concern. The Colonial Government is, unfortunately, helpless in the way of providing a remedy, as the state of the Colony's finances will not at present allow of any expenditure on works extraordinary that would give employment to any considerable number of the unemployed. With a garrison of 429 officers and men, at which number it stood on the 1st January, 1905, the inhabitants obtained employment in various ways under the Imperial Government, and by service under private individuals who benefit by the presence of troops.

With one exception, the discovery of large deposits of manganese ore in the Colony, which I shall refer to later, everything seemed to tend towards exaggerating the bad times that had come to the Island. The efforts to start the flax industry, as stated elsewhere in this report, were not of a very encouraging nature.

Another cause that contributed towards exaggerating the evil complained of, was the fact that the number of vessels that touched at the port of Jamestown during the year was even lower than in the previous year. The steady decrease in the number of "calling ships" contributes largely towards the distress of the community, more especially of the town folk.

The discovery of large deposits of manganese ore, referred to above as the bright exception at the present time, has again raised hopes that better times are in store for St. Helena. In December of the year under review a mining prospector arrived in the Colony, having been sent here by the Cape Manganese Ore Company, Limited. This gentleman succeeded in finding large deposits of manganese ore of good quality. Towards the end of the year he proceeded to England in order to report matters to his Directors, when he took with him samples of the ore named.

The expenses of working the ore in Cape Colony are decidedly higher than they would be in St. Helena. In Cape Colony 3*s*. a day is paid for labour, and, further, it is necessary to bag the ore and transport it by rail to the port of shipment. In St. Helena labour could be obtained at from 2*s*. to 2*s*. 6*d*. per day, and it would not be necessary to bag the ore, as it could be placed on board ships anchored quite close to the works. These reasons make one sanguine that the Company will decide to work the ore, and so bring relief to a large portion of the community. Should one's hopes be realised, a new era of prosperity will arise in St. Helena. The term "discovery," as used above, is apt to be misleading. The existence of manganese ore in St. Helena has been known for years, but no serious effort has been made before to work the mineral, or even to ascertain in what quantities it exists.

The Right Reverend William Arthur Holbech, D.D., was appointed Bishop of the Diocese in succession to the Right Reverend John Garraway Holmes, M.A., who died in 1904. His Lordship arrived in the Colony on the 31st July, 1905, and was enthroned at St. Paul's Cathedral on the 4th of the following month.

A past and a present member of the Colonial Government were awarded medals during the year. Ex-police constable William Kennedy was awarded the Imperial Service Medal by His Majesty for long and faithful service under the St. Helena Government. Kennedy retired on a pension, in 1904, after having served for 38 years. The other award was by the Royal Humane Society, who conferred their bronze medal on police constable John Moyce for his gallantry in saving Mr. Weidner from drowning on the 18th July, 1905.

The two men known as the Prosperous Bay murderers, suffered the extreme penalty of the law on the 2nd February of the year under review, they having been tried and convicted at the January Quarter Sessions.

H. L. GALLWEY,
Governor and
Commander-in-Chief.

The Castle,
St. Helena,
8th March, 1906.

K.

The following table gives a comparison of the revenue for 1904 and 1905 classified under the principal heads:—

Head.	1904.	1905.	Increase.	Decrease.
	£	£	£	£
Customs	7,141	5,720	—	1,421
Licenses, taxes, auction dues ...	906	903	—	3
Fines, fees of office, and reimbursements in aid.	1,255	691	—	564
Post Office	1,701	767	—	934
Rents of Government property	935	945	.10	—
Miscellaneous receipts	244	247	3	—
Interest	1,179	1,015	—	164
Total	13,361	10,288	13	3,086

L.

The following table gives the various instances of increase and decrease under the different heads of expenditure for 1904 and 1905:—

Head.	1904.	1905.	Increase.	Decrease.
	£	£	£	£
Sharpshooters	163	153	—	10
Public debt	1,000	—	—	1,000
Pensions	1,071	742	—	329
The Governor	999	1,000	1	—
Colonial Secretary	657	661	4	—
Customs	717	777	60	—
Legal	323	347	24	—
Savings Bank	808	736	—	72
Police	795	784	—	11
Medical	1,342	1,362	20	—
Education	615	711	96	—
Post Office	415	400	—	15
Miscellaneous Services ...	430	410	—	20
Colonial Engineer	251	1,947	—	54
Public works recurrent ...	1,750			
Public works extraordinary...	6,498	4,255	—	2,243
Port and Marine	527	512	—	15
Gaol	190	172	—	18
Total	18,551	14,969	205	3,787

M.

The following table shows the revenue and expenditure during the last five years:—

Year.	Revenue.	Expenditure.
	£	£
1901	24,614	14,927
1902	23,095	18,613
1903	13,123	21,383
1904	13,361	18,552
1905	10,288	14,969

N.

Statement of Assets and Liabilities on 31st December, 1905.

Liabilities.	Amount.	Assets.	Amount.
	£ s. d.		£ s. d
Arrears due by Colony	—	In Colonial Chest	339 6 11
Personal	—	With Crown Agents	—
Pensions (*see* page 41)	51 18 2	Remittances in transit to C.A.	—
Miscellaneous (*see* page 41)	752 18 8	Advances due to Colony (*see* page 41)	13 0 0
Due to Savings Bank...	26,057 6 0	Arrears of Revenue (*see* page 41)	3 5 6
Due Crown Agents amount overpaid on their Account, 31st December, 1905.	4,428 1 8	Due by G.P.O. London	8 7 6
Due Crown Agents Advances to Colony	1,500 0 0	Grants in Aid	—
		Mail Service	—
	32,790 4 6	Invested for Savings Bank (*Actual cost*) ...	31,233 1 7*
Assets over Liabilities	4,142 10 10	Due by householders for labour and material in connection with new drainage and water works.	5,335 13 10
	36,932 15 4		36,932 15 4

* Market value on 31st December, 1905—£29,797 8*s.* 2*d.*

Advances Due to Colony.

—	Amount.
	£ s. d.
Board of Trade	13 0 0
Total...	13 0 0

Arrears of Revenue.

—	Amount.
	£ s. d.
Assessed Taxes	0 7 6
Rents	2 18 0
Total...	3 5 6

Pensions.

—	Amount.
	£ s. d.
James Hercules	2 5 8
Edward Samuel	3 0 10
John C. Melliss	46 11 8
Total	51 18 2

Miscellaneous.

—	Amount.
	£ s. d.
Bills of Exchange (unpaid)	675 0 0
Fees due to Emigration Agent	9 9 0
McDonald's Estate	66 19 8
Imperial Pension Fund ...	1 10 0
Total...	752 18 8

O.

COMPARATIVE STATEMENT of CUSTOMS REVENUE for the YEARS 1901 to 1905 inclusive.

Year.	Permits.	Wharfage.	Duty.	Tonnage Dues.	Warehouse Rent.	Water.	Total.
	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.
*1901	40 2 0	2,980 10 3	10,891 17 0	1,410 14 6	112 8 4	429 16 3	15,865 18 4
*1902	46 3 0	3,321 3 7	11,326 12 0	1,354 13 0	146 14 3	432 1 3	16,227 7 1
1903	33 18 9	1,840 18 11	4,620 0 10	393 12 0	86 7 4	216 12 6	7,191 10 4
1904	33 4 0	2,067 5 5	4,471 18 0	340 14 6	90 7 5	137 2 6	7,140 11 10
1905	30 14 0	1,788 19 4	3,348 4 3	268 12 0	105 2 8	178 7 6	5,719 19 9

* During these years the Boer prisoners-of-war were interned in the Colony.

P.

TABLE showing VALUE of IMPORTS and EXPORTS for the YEARS 1901–1905 inclusive.

Imports.

Year.	United Kingdom.	Colonies.	Elsewhere.	Total.
	£	£	£	£
1901 ...	°100,675	4,970	—	105,645
1902 ...	†93,920	6,558	—	100,478
1903 ...	55,120	3,111	2,228	60,459
1904 ...	71,652	4,294	32	75,978
1905 ...	46,283	6,307	197	52,787

° Includes £16,650 Specie.
† „ £15,000 „

Exports.

Year.	United Kingdom.	Colonies.	Elsewhere.	Total.
	£	£	£	£
1901 ...	*4,724	—	—	4,724
1902 ...	†1,168	587	—	1,755
1903 ...	235	§12,000	—	12,235
1904 ...	594	146	—	740
1905 ...	‡570	‖7,065	—	7,635

° Includes £4,035 Specie.
† „ £250 „
‡ „ £200 „
§ Specie.
‖ Includes £7,000 Specie.

Q.

Comparative Statement of Shipping Entered and Cleared from 1901 to 1905.

—	1901.		1902.		1903.		1904.		1905.	
	Ships.	Tonnage.	Ships.	Tonnage.	Ships.	Tonnage.	Ships.	Tonnage.	Ships.	Tonnage.
British—										
Steam	74	248,089	66	228,337	34	164,944	40	198,718	38	206,238
Sailing	6	4,654	7	5,687	6	3,921	6	3,012	2	3,452
Foreign—										
Sailing	2	859	1	419	1	479	—	—	—	—
Total	82	253,602	74	234,443	41	169,344	46	201,730	40	209,690

R.

GENERAL ABSTRACT of VESSELS which have touched at the PORT OF JAMESTOWN from JANUARY 1st, 1905, to DECEMBER 31st, 1905.

Class.	American.		British.		Danish.		Dutch		French.		Spanish.		Italian.		Norwegian.		Swedish.		Russian.		Total.	
	No.	Tons.	No.	Tons.	No.	Tons.	No.	Tons.	No.	Tons.	No.	Tons.	No.	Tons.	No.	Tons.	No.	Tons.	No.	Tons.	No.	Tons.
Vessels of War and Transports.	—	—	7	22,749	—	—	—	—	1	7,700	1	1,500	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	9	31,949
Mail and Merchant Steamers.	—	—	43	154,366	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	43	154,366
Merchant Sailing Vessels	1	2,086	19	31,738	3	1,141	1	702	3	3,911	—	—	1	2,157	14	11,246	1	885	1	1,191	44	55,057
Whalers	3	769	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	3	769
Total ...	4	2,855	69	208,853	3	1,141	1	702	4	11,611	1	1,500	1	2,157	14	11,246	1	885	1	1,191	99	242,141

1905.	Ships.	Tonnage.
Tonnage of Men-of-War and Transports...	9	31,949
„ „ Steamers	43	154,366
„ „ Sailing Vessels	47	55,826
Total	99	242,141

1904 Number of Vessels 107
1904 Tonnage 254,069

S.—Return of Diseases and Deaths in the Civil Hospital, St. Helena, during 1904 and 1905.

Disease.	1905.		1904.	
	Cases.	Deaths.	Cases.	Deaths.
General Diseases.				
Influenza	4	—	4	—
Enteric Fever	5	1	8	—
Dysentery	1	—	9	1
Beriberi	*6	—	2	—
Pneumonia	2	—	5	—
Pyæmia	1	1	—	—
Septicæmia	2	2	—	—
Tetanus	1	—	—	—
Tubercle	8	2	3	—
Delirium Tremens	—	—	1	—
New Growth, non-malignant	—	—	1	—
New Growth, malignant	1	1	1	—
Anæmia	—	—	—	—
Diabetes Mellitus	2	—	—	—
Debility	2	—	2	—
Rheumatic Fever	3	—	—	—
Totals	38	7	36	1

Disease.	1905.		1904.	
	Cases.	Deaths.	Cases.	Deaths.
Local Diseases of Nervous System.				
Neuritis	1	—	—	—
Meningitis	3	2	—	—
Myelitis	—	—	—	—
Hydrocephalus	—	—	—	—
Encephalitis	—	—	—	—
Apoplexy	—	—	1	—
Paralysis	—	—	1	—
Epilepsy	1	—	—	—
Hysteria	—	—	2	—
Melancholia	2	—	1	—
Mania (acute delirious)	1	1	...	—
Totals	8	3	5	—

Disease.	1905.		1904.	
	Cases.	Deaths.	Cases.	Deaths.
Local Diseases.				
Disease of the Eye	1	—	3	—
Disease of Circulatory System.	6	2	10	2
Disease of Respiratory System.	1	—	3	—
Disease of Digestive System.	22	1	10	—
Disease of Abscess of the Liver.	2	1	2	—
Disease of Lymphatic System.	—	—	3	—
Disease of Urinary System.	3	1	—	—
Disease of Generative System.	—	—	—	—
Disease of Male Organs.	1	—	1	—
Disease of Female Organs.	3	—	1	—
Disease of Bone Organs.	11	—	9	—
Disease of Joints	4	—	4	—
Disease of Cellular Tissue.	12	—	9	—
Disease of Skin	5	—	5	—
Totals	71	5	60	2

—	1905.		1904.	
	Cases.	Deaths.	Cases.	Deaths.
Injuries.				
General.	—	—	1	—
Local	10	—	10	—
Totals	10	—	11	—

* All landed from Ships.

T.

BALANCE SHEET—JAMESTOWN SEWERAGE and WATER-WORKS, HOUSE DRAINAGE and HOUSE SERVICE WORKS.

—	Amount.	—	Amount.
	£ s. d.		£ s. d.
To amount received from Colonial Treasury, including Crown Agents accounts.	8,446 15 0	By Balances "Returns Book" recoverable from Householders on 31st December 1905.	5,335 13 10½
To Crown Agents accounts not yet received by the Colony :—		By Materials on hand	520 4 9
£ s. d.		By amount not recoverable from Householders.	285 10 7
Place and Sons .. 1 5 11			
Darwen : Sanitary Pipes 4 13 9	5 19 8	By amount refunded by Householders up to 31st December, 1905.	2,192 4 8
		By Breakages	119 0 9½
	8,452 14 8		8,452 14 8

U.

COMPLETE STATEMENT of EXPENDITURE in connection with MAIN SEWERS, WATER MAINS, HOUSE DRAINAGE, and HOUSE SERVICE WORKS, on JAMESTOWN SEWERAGE and WATERWORKS, also showing amount recovered from Householders up to December 31, 1905.

—	Estimate.	1901.	1902.	1903.	1904.	1905.	Totals.	Amount refunded by Householders.	Remarks.
	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	
Sewerage Mains... ...	4,000 0 0	252 8 2	1,448 0 11	2,183 8 11	158 17 5	—	4,042 15 5		
Water Mains	1.680 0 0	245 3 8	427 5 6	805 18 3	212 0 9	—	1,690 8 2		
House Drainage... ...	4,000 0 0	—	323 16 2	466 5 4	3,023 16 0	3,285 8 3	*7,099 5 9	2,192 4 8	*£5 19s. 8d. C.A.'s further charges included.
House Services	1,000 0 0	—	95 11 6	237 6 5	517 1 6	503 9 6	1,353 8 11		
Government properties, Drainage.	1,085 0 0	—	—	125 13 9	1,191 7 11	—	1,484 13 4		
Government properties, Water.	177 0 0	—	—	26 16 5	140 15 3	—			
Engineer-in-charge ...	—	—	92 14 10	325 0 0	336 16 5	400 0 0	1,154 11 3		
Foreman	—	—	—	105 0 0	150 0 0	62 10 0	317 10 0		
Totals ...	—	497 11 10	2,387 8 11	4,275 9 1	5,730 15 3	4,251 7 9	17,142 12 10	2,192 4 8	

N.B.—In addition to the above a sum of £129 3s. 0d. for certain Sea-passages was charged under other Heads in the Colony's Estimates.

COLONIAL REPORTS.

The following recent reports relating to His Majesty's Colonial Possessions have been issued, and may be obtained from the sources indicated on the title page :—

ANNUAL.

No.	Colony.	Year.
458	Straits Settlements	1904
459	Southern Nigeria	"
460	Sierra Leone	"
461	British Solomon Islands	1903–1905
462	Malta	1904–1905
463	Grenada	1904
464	St. Vincent	"
465	Gold Coast	"
466	Barbados...	1904–1905
467	Uganda Protectorate	"
468	Somaliland Protectorate	"
469	Trinidad and Tobago	"
470	Lagos	1904
471	Bahamas	1904–1905
472	British Central Africa Protectorate	"
473	Mauritius...	1904
474	Fiji	"
475	East Africa Protectorate	1904–1905
476	Northern Nigeria	1904
477	British Guiana	1904–1905
478	Leeward Islands...	"
479	Bechuanaland Protectorate	"
480	Basutoland	"
481	Ceylon	1904
482	St. Lucia	"
483	Ashanti	1905
484	Bermuda	"
485	Hong Kong	"

MISCELLANEOUS.

No.	Colony.	Subject.
26	Northern Nigeria	Mineral and Vegetable Products.
27	Miscellaneous Colonies... ...	Medical Reports.
28	Gold Coast and Sierra Leone...	Rubber.
29	Ceylon	Geological Survey.
30	Pitcairn Island	Report by Mr. R. T. Simon.
31	Northern Nigeria	Cotton, &c.
32	Do.	Mineral Survey, 1904–5.
33	Southern Nigeria	Do. do.
34	Montserrat	Agricultural Industry.
35	Antigua and St. Kitts-Nevis ...	Sugar.
36	West Indies	Work of Imperial Department of Agriculture.

LONDON:
PRINTED FOR HIS MAJESTY'S STATIONERY OFFICE,
By DARLING & SON, Ltd., 34-40, Bacon Street, E.

1906.

COLONIAL REPORTS—ANNUAL.

No. 526.

ST. HELENA.

REPORT FOR 1906.

(For Report for 1905, *see* No. 486.)

Presented to both Houses of Parliament by Command of His Majesty.
June, 1907.

LONDON:
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1907.

[Cd. 3285-13.] *Price* 2½*d.*

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No. 526.

ST. HELENA.

(For Report for 1905, *see* No. 486.)

THE GOVERNOR TO THE SECRETARY OF STATE.

The Castle,

St. Helena,

22nd April, 1907.

MY LORD,

I HAVE the honor to transmit herewith the Colony's Blue Book for the year 1906, together with my Annual Report thereon.

2. I retain the opinion that St. Helena is capable of progress. I must, however, confess that the hopes I expressed in my despatch of the 8th March 1906 (covering the Blue Book and Annual Report for 1905) of prosperity returning to St. Helena in the near future received a rude check by the withdrawal of the garrison and in the unfavourable reports of the experts on the manganese deposits.

3. The financial, social, and economic situation in St. Helena to-day is decidedly depressing, and the state of the labour market is a source of grave anxiety to the Colonial Government. My thanks are due to all officials for the loyal and willing support they continue to accord me during a somewhat trying period.

I have, &c.,

H. L. GALLWEY,

Governor and
Commander-in-Chief.

The Right Honourable
The Earl of Elgin, K.G.,
&c., &c., &c.

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ANNUAL REPORT FOR THE YEAR 1906.

I.—FINANCIAL.

(A.) Revenue.

The revenue collected during the year under review amounted to £8,889 6*s.* 10*d.*, being £1,735 13*s.* 2*d.* less than the original estimate, but £863 6*s.* 10*d.* in excess of the revised estimate. As compared with 1905 the revenue showed a falling off of £1,398 6*s.* 11*d.*

The chief heads under which the revenue failed to come up to the amounts estimated were:—

Customs. A shortage of	£1,035
Fines, fees, &c. A shortage of	42'
Post Office. A shortage of	320
Miscellaneous receipts. A shortage of ...	148

Against these was an excess of revenue of £233 under "Interest." This excess was due to two causes. By an oversight no provision was made in the estimate for the interest due from householders under the Drainage and Water Works Ordinances. This amounted to £112 during the year. Further, it was calculated that more of the Colony's securities would have been realised during the period under review, thereby decreasing the interest received in that direction.

The above figures are not encouraging. The decrease of the revenue, as compared with the previous year, was almost entirely due to the withdrawal of the garrison in October, 1906. Prior to that date the garrison dwindled in numbers every month owing to the departure of time-expired men whose places were not filled. This gradual decrease in the strength of the garrison naturally had a serious effect upon trade, the troops being large purchasers of dutiable goods. The continual decline in shipping also contributed considerably towards the falling off in revenue, and seriously affected trade generally, especially in the farming industry. The final withdrawal of the garrison brought about a grave state of affairs among the labouring classes of the Colony. Large numbers of men were thrown out of employment, and to these were added numbers of others discharged by the farmers, who, on the withdrawal of the troops, were forced to cut down expenses to the lowest possible figure. All this added to the general depression, and, indirectly, adversely affected the revenue.

Apart from the revenue, the sum of £1,097 was received from householders during the year—made up as follows:—Repayments of principal, £985; interest, £112.

(B.) Expenditure.

The expenditure during the year amounted to £10,279 16*s.* 11*d.*, being a saving of £373 1*s.* 10*d.* on the estimate, and £4,689 11*s.* 4*d.* less than in 1905. These figures show that the expenditure for 1906 exceeded the revenue by £1,390 10*s.* 1*d.*

The decrease in expenditure, as compared with the previous year, was chiefly due to the large expenditure incurred in 1905 in completing the Jamestown drainage and water works schemes.

The most important savings under the estimate were:—Medical, £103; and St. Helena Volunteers, £122. The former chiefly due to fewer patients being admitted to the hospital, and to a marked reduction in the cost of provisions; and the latter due to the corps named (having practically ceased to exist early in the year) being finally disbanded in October, 1906.

(C.) Assets and Liabilities.

On the 31st December, 1906, the Colony's assets showed an excess over liabilities of £2,348 0*s.* 5*d.*, as compared with an excess of £4,142 10*s.* 10*d.* on 31st December, 1905—or a decrease of £1,794 10*s.* 5*d.*

In the table of Assets and Liabilities, attached to this report (marked N), it will be seen that the Colony's investments are shown as amounting to £22,464 15*s.* 6*d.*, the cost price of the securities held. Their market value, however, on the 31st December 1906, was only £21,246 15*s.* 9*d.*—being a deficit of £1,217 19*s.* 9*d.* Among the assets, too, is the sum of £4,350 5*s.* 5*d.* due from householders under the Drainage and Water Works Ordinances and which will not be fully repaid until about the year 1919. These figures point to the Colony's finances as being in a parlous condition, and it is difficult at present to surmise how the necessary funds to carry on the administration with efficiency in the near future are to be raised. Matters will no doubt improve considerably as soon as the flax industry is firmly established in the Colony. This, however, must take time; and one's anxiety is connected more with the three or four years that must elapse before the benefits from the industry are really felt.

On the 31st December, 1906, the Colony owed the sum of £3,185 17*s.* 1*d.* to the Crown Agents for monies advanced in the account current. Interest at Bank rate is charged on the sum named.

During the year under review £8,355 19*s.* 1*d.* was realised by the sale of securities in order to meet withdrawals from the Savings Bank and with a view to clearing off as much as possible an overdraft due to the Crown Agents.

(D.) Currency.

Bills on the Crown Agents were issued to the public during the year amounting to £16,075 5*s.*, as compared with £24,248 2*s.*

in the previous year. In addition to these bills the sum of £4,954 was remitted to the United Kingdom by the public through the Post Office, as against £5,109 in the previous year. £110 6*s*. was received in commissions on bills of exchange, as against £168 19*s*. 2*d*. in 1905. Against these commissions the sum of £30 3*s*. was paid to the Imperial Government in remittance charges, being £22 3*s*. 6*d*. less than in 1905.

The Imperial Treasury Chest was closed, as for receiving specie from the Colonial Government went, towards the latter end of the third quarter of the year. This necessitated a certain amount of specie being exported by the merchants and by the Post Office, as the Colonial Government could only issue bills on the Crown Agents when money was required to meet local payments. The total amount of specie exported during the year was £8,815.

(E.) Financial Returns.

Attached to this report are the following financial returns:—

(1.) Revenue for the years 1905 and 1906, showing increases and decreases in detail, marked K.

(2.) Expenditure for the years 1905 and 1906, showing increases and decreases in detail, marked L.

(3.) Revenue and expenditure from 1902 to 1906, inclusive, marked M.

(4.) Table of assets and liabilities, marked N.

II.—TRADE, AGRICULTURE AND INDUSTRIES.

(A.) Trade.

The Customs revenue for the year under review amounted to £4,864 13*s*. 8*d*., being £855 6*s*. 1*d*. less than in 1905.

The decreases were:—Permits, £3 17*s*.; warehouse rent, £42 14*s*. 7*d*.; and import duties, £970 13*s*. 3*d*.

These latter two decreases were almost entirely due to the withdrawal of the garrison during the latter part of the year.

The following figures show the deficit in the importation of specific dutiable goods as compared with 1905:—

—	1906.	1905.
	Gallons.	Gallons.
Spirits	2,411	3,571
Wine	3,557	4,019
	Hhds.	Hhds.
Beer	358	567
	Dozen.	Dozen.
„	743	974
	lbs.	lbs.
Tobacco	6,981	9,389

Only 14 hogsheads of beer were imported in the last three months of the year, plainly showing that the principal

consumers of that beverage were the troops. The general depression owing to scarcity of employment, a considerable number of men having been discharged by the Imperial Government, served indirectly to lessen the imports generally, but especially of liquor and tobacco.

Increases occurred under the following heads:—

(1.) Wharfage, £24 6*s.* 9*d.* This increase is accounted for by the large quantity of coal imported by the Admiralty contractors. In 1905 only 1,451 tons were imported, whereas in 1906 the importation amounted to 4,193 tons, including 1,117 tons of patent fuel.

(2.) Tonnage dues, £93 7*s.* Due to increased import of coal and to the export of 840 tons of Imperial Government stores to England on the withdrawal of the garrison.

(3.) Water, £44 5*s.* Due to Commodore Sir Alfred Paget's Squadron taking in nearly 600 tons of water.

A comparative statement, marked O, is attached to this report, showing the Customs revenue for the last five years, including the year under review.

Goods to the value of £41,391 were imported during the year exclusive of Imperial Government stores. This is £11,396 less than the previous year. As soon as the merchants received the news of the intended removal of the entire garrison, they reduced their imports as much as possible. A large decrease occurred under "Flour and Grain," no Australian vessel having called at the island. These two items alone show a decrease, as compared with 1905, of £4,389. There were, too, considerable decreases under "Drapery," "Oilman's Stores," "Butter," "Leather," and "Hardware." Decreases under all specific dutiable goods and increase in coal have been referred to already. There was a large increase under "Rice," which, with fish, constitutes the chief diet of the islanders.

The chief imports are given in the following table:—

Articles.	1906.	1905.
	£	£
Beer	1,921	2,535
Beef and pork	1,203	1,148
Butter	1,477	2,544
Cigars, cigarettes, and tobacco	810	1,248
Coal and patent fuel	8,130	2,250
Drapery, &c.	2,885	6,551
Flour	1,898	3,559
Oilcake, grain, and seed	934	3,662
Hardware	758	1,496
Leather, boots, &c.	764	1,451
Rice	3,325	1,970
Sugar	2,294	2,184
Oilman's stores	7,838	10,131
Spirits	1,015	1,607
Wine	766	1,210

Exports were practically nil. Hides to the value of £70 were exported to the United Kingdom, and potatoes, valued at £372 to Cape Colony. The imposition of a duty of £2 per ton on potatoes imported into Cape Colony has practically shut that market against St. Helena, Cape Colony, too, being the only possible market for the produce referred to.

A statement, marked P, is attached to this report showing the value of imports and exports for the years 1902-6, inclusive.

There was an increase in the expenditure under "Customs" during 1906 of £106 1*s.* 9*d.*, as compared with 1905. This is more than accounted for by the refund of wharfage on coal supplied to His Majesty's ships, which amounted to £372 10*s.*, or an increase of £176 18*s.* as compared with the previous year. The amount of duty refunded on beer consumed by the troops fell from £104 8*s.* 6*d.* in 1905 to £47 10*s.* 11*d.* during the year under review. This is accounted for by the garrison being gradually reduced during the first nine months of the latter year, and being entirely removed towards the end of that year. There is no doubt that had the garrison not been removed the Customs revenue for 1906 would have more than equalled that of 1905.

(B.) Agricultural Industries and Botanical Stations.

The year 1906 was a satisfactory one as regards production for agriculture generally, but in all cases the supply greatly exceeded the demand. The removal of the garrison, coupled with the continued falling off in the shipping, deprives the island of the chief markets for farm produce. The poverty of the islanders was, too, a great bar to local purchases. Potatoes and green vegetables did unusually well, but through lack of a market large quantities were fed to cattle and dairy stock. The exportation of potatoes to Cape Colony was, as already stated, practically put an end to by the imposition thereon of a duty of 2*s.* per 100 lbs., which absorbed nearly the entire profit. Indian corn, grain, and roots were above the average. Very little hay was made, the demand being small. Large quantities, too, of the 1905 crop were still available. Pasture lands were short owing to being overstocked. In spite of this, cattle kept in good condition. Young stock at present look very promising, especially those bred from the several shorthorns imported a few years ago with a view to meeting the demands of the Imperial Government. Stockowners have not yet suffered very much as regards the condition of their cattle, but if some market for the surplus animals is not forthcoming by the end of 1907 there will be very few animals fit for slaughter on the island, especially if the year at all resembles 1905. Stockowners are in a position to supply from 80,000 lbs. to 100,000 lbs. of beef annually. During the year under review not more than 40,000 lbs. were consumed, and this including

the wants of a garrison for ten months of the year. If an outside market is not found the probable quantity required in 1907 will not exceed 15,000 lbs., and the price will probably fall to 6*d*. a lb., which will leave no margin for profit. Sheep, like other stock, did well.

The Colony still remains in the unenviable position of being without an industry. There can be no doubt that the islanders themselves are partly to blame for this state of affairs. In the past they have been content to live entirely upon what they could make out of the garrison and the shipping. These facts, however, do not help to remedy matters. The economic situation existing in St. Helena to-day constitutes a very difficult problem. This fact is exaggerated by the utter helplessness of the islanders to do much for themselves without material assistance from outside. The wants of these people are really very small; and, in the past, so long as a man got a few days' work occasionally he was quite content to sit down during the intervals. This unfortunate trait in the St. Helenians' character is really a legacy passed on to them by their forbears who were too well treated by the old John Company. Now a very great change has come upon the land, and employment, except for a very few, is unobtainable. How large numbers of the people live under existing circumstances it is difficult to conceive. There can be no doubt that the equable and mild climate of St. Helena, coupled with the large number of fish in the sea, save the situation from being much worse than it is. I am, however, digressing from the subject to be dealt with, namely, industries. As I stated above, there is no industry in St. Helena, but by the middle of 1907 it is to be hoped that good progress will have been made in establishing the flax industry which should form a decided advance towards winning back in the near future some of the island's lost prosperity. Thirty years ago the flax industry proved a failure, owing chiefly, I fancy, to lack of business methods. The industry about to be started is to be run on the most modern lines, and will for the first few months be supervised by experts from New Zealand. The working of the industry will lie with the Government, but the profits accruing therefrom will go chiefly to the flax growers. I do not propose dealing further with the scheme which has been drawn up after the most careful consideration at the Colonial Office, as it does not come within the period covered by this report. I shall hope, however, to be able in my next report to announce the start of the industry as being a decided success. There can be no doubt that the industry when once fairly started must prove a great boon to a large number of persons, especially landowners. There is, however, not a great quantity of mature flax available with which to feed the machines, and it therefore must be some four or five years before the real benefits of the industry become apparent. It is this interval that has to be got through somehow. I would

add that the Imperial Government are providing the funds to start the industry and to run it for a few months. After this, it is calculated the industry will pay its own way.

The hopes raised in my last report as to great benefits coming out of the manganese ore deposits are, I regret to say, doomed to disappointment. The Cape Manganese Ore Company, Limited, sent an expert, Mr. Kilburn Scott, to the Colony in May, of the year under review, to report on the deposits in question. This report was unfavourable, and was to the effect that there was not sufficient ore of marketable value to make exploratory work advisable. The Company referred to, therefore, threw the matter up. Then Messrs. James Morrison and Company, Limited, of London, secured concessions with the sole right of working the manganese and other base mineral deposits in St. Helena. They also secured similar rights to work the guano deposits. Their expert, Mr. W. H. Herdsman, has lately (March, 1907) completed his investigations as to the value of the several deposits covered by Messrs. Morrison's concessions. His report on the manganese confirms Mr. Scott's verdict. Mr. Herdsman is of opinion that there is not more than 3,000 tons of the ore in the island, most of which is not only highly siliceous but is of a low metallic value, and not worth more than 25*s.* a ton. The quantity of ore containing 40 per cent. metal, Mr. Herdsman describes as "minute"; and that gentleman expressed the opinion that the deposits could not by any means be worked at a profit. Thus the manganese question is finally disposed of.

Further hopes, however, have been raised through the discovery by Mr. Herdsman of enormous deposits of phosphates (old guano), in which a very important and valuable export trade might be established in the near future. Everything depends, however, upon the result of the analysis of samples lately sent to England.

A considerable amount of tree planting was carried out during the year under review. About 650 trees were laid down on Government lands, and about 500 distributed free of cost to landowners. These trees were all reared in the Plantation nurseries. The result of the last four years planting shows large numbers of Norfolk pines, eucalyptus, and cedars growing in various parts of the country where before nothing but willows and the fir tree prevailed. Successful tree planting in the lower lands is sadly handicapped by the want of irrigation. Watering by hand is too costly a process, and, therefore, one is entirely dependent on the elements as to the success or otherwise of one's efforts. In view of the proposed establishment of the flax industry in the Colony, the Colonial Government planted a certain amount of flax during the year, chiefly experimentally, to ascertain how the plant would thrive on waste lands. About 5,000 suckers in all were put down. Only one landowner did any extensive planting. He put down about 50,000 suckers, covering an area of about 50 acres. The fact

is, that this planting of suckers before there are any machines to deal with the leaves cut away is a sad waste of material. This fact alone made it inadvisable that any very extensive planting should take place. As the leaves are cut for the machines when erected, so the suckers will be freed for planting purposes. The Colonial Government sowed a certain amount of Ramie seed in September in the Plantation nurseries. The plants were bedded out in January, 1907, but are coming on slowly. When large enough, some plants will be sent to the Imperial Institute for report as to quality, &c., and with a view to ascertaining whether the cultivation of Ramie in St. Helena is likely to be worthy of attention.

In order to encourage fruit culture a considerable number of fruit trees were imported from Cape Colony and sold to the public at cost price. A certain number of vines and fruit trees were issued to poor people free of cost.

There was a decided decrease in the number of the peach fly during the year, but that pest is not yet entirely eradicated. It is only by continual worrying that the apathetic islanders will exert themselves to assist towards getting rid of the fly by destroying all maggot-infested fruit. As I stated in a former report, the peach fly's existence being due to an act of God, is quite sufficient reason for the more ignorant of the people to consider as misdirected any efforts made by the Government to get rid of the fly.

The sale of fallen and dead trees for fuel realised £17 5*s.* 9*d.* during the year; and fruit from Maldivia Garden to the value of £32 4*s.* 4½*d.* was sold to the public during the same period.

(C.) Fisheries.

I cannot help thinking that, if some capitalist would take the trouble to go into the matter, fish-curing would prove to be an enterprise well worth trying in St. Helena. The mooi point appears to be whether the majority of fish are local or merely "passing." In any case, capital is the first necessity, and this unfortunately is not forthcoming in St. Helena.

(D.) Shipping.

To this report are attached two returns, marked Q and R, respectively, which give detailed information of shipping entered and cleared at the Customs for the years 1902-6, inclusive, and of the vessels which touched at the Port of Jamestown during the year under review. These returns are not encouraging reading, and point very plainly to one of the two chief factors which have contributed to St. Helena having become, for the time being, little better than a derelict rock in the ocean. The continual decrease in the shipping shows no cessation. St. Helena, in her distress, appears to be avoided

as much as possible. Only 201 ships were sighted by the signal stations during the year, of which 142 communicated by signal. This is the fifth annual report on St. Helena I have written, and even in that short period the number of calling ships, which are the only ones that benefit the island, has fallen from 199, with a tonnage of 426,499 tons, to 86, with a tonnage of 215,217 tons. As compared with the previous year, the following figures show a decrease in every case with one small exception:—

	1906.	1905.
Calling ships	86	99
Ships entered and cleared	32	40
Ships sighted...	201	212
Ships communicated by signal	142	154
Passing ships boarded by licensed traders...	31	29

I feel convinced that the St. Helena farmers themselves are to a great extent to blame for the falling off in the number of sailing vessels that call at the island now-a-days. I refer to the foolish and unbusinesslike policy followed of late years by the farmers of demanding exorbitant prices for their produce. I know of more than one case where the master of a sailing vessel has stated that shipowners warn their masters not to call at St. Helena for provisions owing to the abnormally high prices ruling there. When times are hard and very few ships call, it is naturally the wisest policy to sell as cheaply as possible, and so encourage other ships to provision at the island. But no, the St. Helenian farmer says, "Trade being so bad, and opportunities few, I must get the highest possible price for my goods." The result of such short-sighted policy can only be to the detriment of those who follow it. This has struck me as having been the attitude of the farmers in the past. There is, however, I fancy, a tendency to-day to reverse the misguided course hitherto pursued. I trust this may prove to be the case, and that it may succeed in bringing more calling ships to the island in the near future. It is to be regretted that lower prices were not instituted years ago instead of waiting for the débâcle as regards shipping that has come upon the Colony. In past years, more especially before the Suez Canal was opened, St. Helena's prosperity was due almost entirely to the large amount of shipping that called at the Port of Jamestown. In looking at the Colony's records it is plain that a considerable revenue was collected from leaking ships whose cargoes had to be landed and on which certain Customs dues were levied. Such ships, too, provided work for large numbers of carpenters, rivetters, fitters, and other skilled labour. It is a noteworthy fact that in the four years I have been in the Colony not a single leaking ship has called at the island. I do not deplore this fact in its moral aspect, as it points to the probability that

only sound ships go to sea now-a-days, and that the state of affairs in the mercantile world has vastly improved since the days described in Sir A. Conan Doyle's book "The Firm of Girdlestone." I mention the fact of there being no leaking ships now-a-days simply to illustrate another factor that accounts for the difference in the value to the island of the shipping to-day as compared with 30 years ago.

III.—LEGISLATION.

The legislative publications of the year consisted of seven Ordinances and three Proclamations. The Ordinances worthy of note were:—

No. 2.—"The Mineral Lands Leasing Ordinance," empowering the Governor in Council to fix the extent of land to be included in any lease; the amount of annual rent to be paid; the amount of royalty to be paid on every ton weight exported; and to extend, or refuse to extend, the terms of any lease.

No. 4.—"The Emigrants Protection Ordinance," to provide for engagement of workmen for service beyond the Colony; and to facilitate the recovery of sums due to them by way of wages or otherwise from employers not resident in the Colony; and providing for all contracts of foreign service to be in writing with a separate contract for each workman engaged.

No. 6.—"The Tax Ordinance," to provide for the levying and collection of taxes and rates.

No. 7.—"The Liquor Licence Ordinance," bringing the laws governing the sale of intoxicating liquors up to modern requirements.

The only Proclamation of any importance was No. 3 of the 22nd October, 1906, by which the "St. Helena Volunteers (Sharpshooters)" were disbanded.

The "Stallion Donkeys Ordinance, 1905," has now run for a year and has proved to be an unqualified success. I doubt if there is a single donkey owner now in the island who does not view the Ordinance with favour. There were no deaths from castration during the year under review.

The necessity for introducing the "Weights and Measures Ordinance, 1905," was made very apparent when it came to the readjusting and stamping of weights and scales prior to the conditions of the Ordinance coming into force. The number of machines stamped was 125—of which 46 required readjusting; whilst the number of weights stamped was 732—of which no less than 430 were too light and 49 too heavy.

IV.—EDUCATION.

The expenditure under this head during the year under review was practically the same as in the previous year, the amounts being £710 and £711, respectively.

The number of schools remained the same, namely, three Government schools and five non-Government. The number of children attending school was 625, of which 311 were boys. These figures show a decrease of 29 and 11, respectively, as compared with 1905. This decrease is probably accounted for by the number of children reaching the age of 14 being in excess of the number attaining school age. There are very few children in the island who escape attending school between the ages of 6 and 14 years.

Good progress was made in the Government schools particularly during the year in the methods of teaching in consequence of the inauguration of training classes for pupil teachers. The old system of cram may be said to have received its death-blow. This improvement, the Inspector of Schools remarks, is especially evident in the Government schools in which the certificated pupil teachers are employed—but signs are not wanting which show a universal endeavour to work on modern lines.

A satisfactory feature of the year's school work was the extension of physical exercises, both in the school and in the playground; likewise the introduction of more frequent breaks during school hours, which are of great benefit in giving rest to the brain, thus invigorating it for further effort. Lessons on hygiene and simple mechanics are now included in the schools' curriculum. This does not apply yet to all schools, but it is hoped that such will be the case before long. Such lessons are calculated not only to improve the mind and extend general knowledge, but they also enlarge the vocabulary of the children and, therefore, of the people in general.

Early in the year under review, the very necessary work of training the pupil teachers was taken in hand. Mr. L. Tucker, Head Master of the Government Senior School, after about a year's instruction on the methods and art of teaching, presented seven pupil teachers for examination, with the result that four were granted First Class and three Second Class Certificates. The Rev. Canon Porter, Government Inspector of Schools, remarks:—"These seven, the first fruits of the system, which is new to St. Helena, are now in a fair way to becoming expert teachers, and with a continuation of the training classes thus begun, the teaching power of the island will be insured." Unfortunately, only Government pupil teachers attended Mr. Tucker's classes. This is particularly to be regretted, as the time will most likely come, and that very soon, when none but certificated teachers will be employed in any of the schools in the island. This is a consummation to be

earnestly hoped for, both for the sake of the scholars and also for the sake of the reputation of the island's education system.

The Board of Education met regularly once a month, and my thanks are due to the Honorary Secretary of that body, the Rev. W. J. Buchanan, for his willing and gratuitous assistance.

His Majesty's birthday and Empire Day were celebrated as usual by the children being given an "outing," the Flag being formally saluted by the children on the latter anniversary.

V.—GOVERNMENT INSTITUTIONS.

(A.) Hospitals.

There were 104 admissions to the hospital during the year, of which 50 were treated in the male ward and 54 in the female ward. The number of admissions shows a decrease of 23 as compared with 1905.

There were 3 deaths, giving a percentage of 2·8 as compared with 15 deaths and a percentage of 11·8 in 1905. Attached to this Report is a Return (marked S) of diseases and deaths in the Hospital for the years 1905 and 1906. The number of admissions is the smallest recorded since the inauguration of the Hospital. This is chiefly accounted for by the diminution in the number of seamen admitted. In former years seamen constituted the larger proportion of patients, whereas now almost all patients are natives of the Island, only four seamen having been landed for treatment during the year under review. In 1873 the number treated was 131. In the decade preceding 1906 the average number was 18; whereas in the decades 1880-1889 and 1890-1899 the average was 61·2 and 31·3 respectively. Again, until a few years ago the Islanders had an aversion to going to Hospital. Their feelings, however, on this point are quite the reverse now, and chiefly accounted for by the excellent and efficient system under which the Hospital is run by the Colonial Surgeon and his staff of nurses. This tendency of the Islanders to go to Hospital when necessary, instead of avoiding such a step, is satisfactory under the conditions now existing in St. Helena. When the troops were withdrawn in October of the year under review the Colony was left with one doctor. On Doctor Arnold's shoulders falls the responsibility of the medical care of the population. Consequently it is desirable to move all bad cases to Hospital where they can be immediately under the eyes of the Colonial Surgeon and the nursing staff. The Hospital Staff sustained a severe loss during the year in the retirement, through illness, of Miss Williams, the Lady Superintendent. Miss Williams completed the good work begun by Miss Blennerhasset, and under her wise, and energetic control the nursing arrangements were brought into line with modern ideas. Miss Williams held the post of

Lady Superintendent for over eleven years. The Colonial Surgeon remarks that although Miss Williams worked for the greater part of her service with far too small a staff, she always insisted that the work in the Hospital should be on a par with the highest European standards, so far as the resources of the institution would allow; and she never spared herself in achieving this object. Dr. Arnold further remarks that Miss Williams' abilities fitted her for a wider sphere than was her lot in St. Helena. There can be no doubt that the serious nature of Miss Williams' illness was aggravated to no small extent by her devotion to duty. The efficient system prevailing in the Hospital to-day is chiefly due to Miss Williams' untiring energies; and now that there is only one doctor in the Colony it is imperative that this system be continued, which means that the present nursing staff should not be reduced in numbers. Miss Hart, late Matron at Kokstad Hospital, South Africa, who formerly served as a nurse under Miss Williams in St. Helena, succeeded that lady in the post of Lady Superintendent.

Towards the end of the year Miss Wormald, the senior nurse, left the Colony after four years of devoted service. During the last few months of her service Miss Wormald acted as Lady Superintendent, in which position she gave the greatest satisfaction.

The Colonial Surgeon was granted six months' leave of absence during the year, during which time his duties were admirably performed by Dr. H. E. Scoones.

(B.) Savings Bank.

The Bank's revenue for the year amounted to £982 18*s.* 3*d.*, being £31 14*s.* 8*d.* less than in 1905. The expenditure for the same period was £634 0*s.* 4*d.*, as compared with £724 15*s.* 3*d.* in the previous year. These figures are satisfactory, shewing a profit to the Bank during the year of £348 17*s.* 11*d.*

The number of depositors was 119, being 2 more than in 1905. Twenty-three new accounts were opened and 21 closed during the year. Among the latter category were 8 persons who left the Colony to take up their permanent residence abroad, and who withdrew between them over £3,000. The remainder closed their accounts owing to the want of steady employment, of which there was a great scarcity during the year under review. The Manager of the Bank states that in the whole of his experience, extending over half-a-century, 1906 was the worst year for employment in St. Helena known to anyone.

The total amount deposited during the year was £3,386 1*s.* 0*d.*, being an increase of £1,271 17*s.* 0*d.* over 1905. The withdrawals amounted to £8,965 19*s.* 4*d.*, or an increase over the previous year of £4,115 10*s.* 1*d.*

In addition to the £3,000 referred to above as having been withdrawn by eight persons, the withdrawals were abnormally large to a great part owing to the monies required by depositors to meet repayments to the Colonial Government under the Drainage and Waterworks Ordinances, but the greater part of the withdrawals were owing to the general depression in trade.

The amount of money held by the Colonial Government on behalf of the Savings Bank on the 31st December, 1906, was £21,162 2*s.* 11*d.*, being £4,895 3*s.* 1*d.* less than on the same date in 1905. Considering the unsatisfactory state of the economic situation in St. Helena to-day, I consider that the reserve speaks well for the thrift of the depositors, among whom are several Friendly Societies with a total membership of over 2,000 persons of both sexes. These persons make every endeavour to retain their membership chiefly on account of the relief afforded to them by the Societies in the time of sickness, and so avoid becoming a burden on the Parish Rates.

VI.—JUDICIAL STATISTICS.

(A.) Criminal Statistics.

Supreme Court.—There were two criminal cases during the year, namely: one for larceny and the other a misdemeanour. In the former case, owing to the youth of the prisoner, a sentence of only three months hard labour was imposed; in the latter case the prisoner pleaded guilty, and was bound over to appear for judgment when called upon. It was a case of attempted suicide.

Police Court.—There was a considerable falling off in the number of convictions in this Court as compared with 1905, as shewn in the following table:—

Cases.	1906.	1905.
1. Assaults and other offences against the person ...	13	10
2. Malicious injury to property	—	—
3. Offences against property other than malicious ...	2	23
4. Offences against highways and other Acts relating to the social economy of the Colony.	53	59
5. Soliciting, drunkenness, &c.	50	61
Totals	118	153

Among the 53 convictions under the fourth sub-head above were 10 under the Education Ordinance, being a decrease of 14 as compared with the previous year. There were no convictions during the year for gambling, keeping disorderly houses or brothels, or against the good order of any of the public-houses. The offences were for the most part trivial.

When one looks at other countries it is the rule to find that any serious depression in trade, such as St. Helena is now experiencing, leads to an increase in crime, actuated no doubt by the want of employment and the necessary hunger attaching to such a contingency. In such cases the prospect of capture and any punishment which may follow are not necessarily powerful deterrents. The good behaviour of the Islanders is therefore accentuated and the marked freedom from serious crime during the year under review is all the more to their credit. Four sentences of flogging were imposed on boys by the magistrates during the year, being a similar number to those in 1905.

(B.) Prisons.

The actual number of prisoners committed to the Jamestown Gaol during the year was practically the same as in 1905, but the daily average number in confinement was decidedly less, consequent on the fact that the average duration of sentences was shorter. The daily average was 2·65 during the year under review, as compared with 3·65 in the previous year. The following are the details:—

——	Male.	Female.	Total.
Number of prisoners in gaol on 31st Dec., 1905	3	1	4
" " " admitted, 1906	18	17	35
" " " discharged, 1906	18	17	35
" " " in gaol on 31st Dec., 1906	3	1	4

The health of the prisoners and the sanitary condition of the gaol were satisfactory in every way.

(C.) Police Force.

The Inspector of Police reports satisfactorily on the conduct and efficiency of the Force during the year. As from the 1st January, 1906, the strength of the police force was reduced to one inspector, one corporal, and three constables, special constables being employed on special occasions. Two out of the three constables are detailed for duty in Jamestown. Under the circumstances it was not possible for any regular night duty to be performed. In fact, as was anticipated, the patrolling of the town by police after 11 p.m. is really unnecessary except when ships are lying in port, which is not often the case now-a-days. After, however, the troops were withdrawn it was found necessary to detail one constable for night duty, particularly with a view to patrolling the lower part of Jamestown where the Castle and other Colonial Government buildings are situated. Consequently from the 1st November, 1906, the police force was increased by one constable.

The system advocated by me in my last report on the Colony, that is, fewer constables and increased supervision, has

proved a distinct success, especially considering the saving of expenditure effected by such a system. The cost of maintaining the police force in 1905 was £784, whereas it amounted to £584 in the year under review.

The number of offences treated by the police during the year was 230, or 80 less than in the previous year. 139 of these were dealt with by the magistrates, resulting in 118 convictions. The remaining cases were trivial, and were dealt with by the police. As in past years the most common offences were drunkenness and petty thefts.

VII.—VITAL STATISTICS.

(A.) Population.

The estimated civil population on the 31st December, 1906, was 3,526, being an increase of 14 in the 12 months. The population on the same date, including the garrison and shipping, was 3,544.

There were 118 births (including 2 among the garrison) during the period under review, of which 3 were still-born and 37 illegitimate. Now that the troops have been withdrawn the number of births under the latter category will undoubtedly be less in future.

The birth-rate per 1,000 works out at 33·1 as against 35·9 in 1905.

Forty-six deaths occurred (including 3 seamen and 1 soldier) during the year, being a decrease of 10 as compared with the previous year. The death-rate among the civil population was 11·9 per 1,000 as compared with 14·5 in 1905.

Only 11 marriages were solemnized, as against 18 in 1905.

The emigrants numbered 97 and the immigrants 38, as compared with 85 and 69 respectively in the previous year.

(B.) Public Health.

The general health of the Colony was excellent, the death-rate, 11·9 per 1,000, given above, being the lowest recorded for ten years. There were no epidemics of any zymotic disease. Two cases of diphtheria occurred in Jamestown in the month of March, it being now several years since cases of this disease were observed. Altogether the year was remarkable for the small amount of illness that prevailed. The Colonial Surgeon gives it as his opinion that lack of employment for lengthened periods, and the extreme poverty consequent thereon, may in some cases lead to the diseases usually attendant on destitution. It is in this direction the health of the Island will probably suffer through the withdrawal of the troops. There were 94 successful cases of vaccination during the year.

(C.) Sanitary.

The new drainage and water systems in Jamestown have worked well, and it has been found that, contrary to expectation, the inhabitants of the town have exercised a commendable amount of care in the use of the new fittings, no serious instance of negligence or damage being brought to light. One defect in the drainage system calls for remedying as soon as funds are available for that purpose. This is to be found in the height of the ventilating pipes, which in many places are not carried sufficiently high above the roof, thus leading to the entrance of foul air into adjoining dwellings.

The water supply of a large district outside Jamestown, known as Half-Tree-Hollow, is still stored in wooden barrels sunk in the earth. The Colonial Surgeon points out that water stored in this manner can easily get contaminated, and urges the desirability of a sounder system of water storage being inaugurated. This is entirely a matter of funds, and cannot be attempted under present financial conditions.

(D.) Climate.

Hutt's Gate.

Borometer.—The mean pressure for the year was 28·147, the figures for 1905 having been 28·123.

Temperature.

—	1906.	1905.
	°	°
Mean	60·3	61·1
Maximum	75 on 20th March and 25th April.	80 on 27th April.
Lowest maximum	64·6 on 12th July.	67 on 3rd August.
Lowest minimum	48·5 on 15th September.	51 on 4th and 14th Sept.

Rainfall.

—	1906.	1905.
	inches.	inches.
Total fall	49·77	32·45
Maximum fall	1·91 on 15th June.	1·87 on 8th December.
Number of days' rain ...	277	256

The rainfall for the year under review was the heaviest experienced for many years. July was the wettest month,

there being 28 days on which rain fell. The total in June, however, was greater with 21 days' rain.

Wind.—The mean force was 2·4, which is equivalent to 14 miles—being the same rate as in the three previous years. In fact, in my experience the mean force is practically the same from year to year. The direction of the wind was as follows:—

	Days.
S.S.E.	251
S.E.	70
E.S.E.	21
S.	3
E.	—
Calm	17

The anemograph was not running for three days of the year owing to repairs. It is not possible to give comparisons with 1905, as during that year the anemograph was under repair in England for five months.

Jamestown.

Temperature.

—	1906.	1905.
	°	°
Mean	72·7	73·6
Maximum	80 on 14th February and 2nd March.	83 on 1st February.
Minimum	66 on 4th July and 11th August.	66 on 12th September.

Rainfall.—There were 112 rainy days during the year with a total fall of 9·53 inches, the maximum fall being 0·43 inches on the 31st March and the 6th April. No comparison is made with 1905, as the rain gauge was in use for only seven months of that year.

Oakbank.

Rainfall.—Total fall, 48·51 inches, on 228 days of rain, as against 38·41 inches in 1905.

No record of railfall was kept at Woodlands during the year under review.

VIII.—POSTAL, TELEGRAPH, AND TELEPHONE SERVICES.

(A.) Postal.

The postal revenue for the year amounted to £629 18*s.* 11*d.*, being £137 2*s.* 9*d.* less than in 1905. The causes which led to this decrease were the withdrawal of the garrison, fewer calling ships, and less demand for stamps by collectors and non-residents. Calling ships are good customers in every sense, even in Post Office matters. Shipping spends on an average from 5*s.* to 20*s.* per vessel in postage.

The expenditure for the same period amounted to £362 3*s.* 6*d.*, of £37 19*s.* 5*d.* less than in the preceding year, the decrease being accounted for by dispensing with the services of one clerk and reducing the number of sorters.

Mail matter, both despatched and received, decreased under nearly every head. The following tables give details of all postal matter dealt with during the year under review as compared with 1905:—

From the United Kingdom.

—	1906.	1905.
No. of mails from England	15	23
„ „ bags mails received	240	251
„ „ cases parcel post	194	202
„ „ registered articles...	365	597
„ „ parcels	1,771	2,285
„ „ insured letters	1	1

To the United Kingdom.

—	1906.	1905.
No. of mails to England	17	18
„ „ bags mail England (and Ascension) ...	71	91
„ „ letters (ordinary)...	20,732	20,331
„ „ postcards	10,886	12,507
„ „ other articles (papers and books) ...	2,552	2,729
„ „ parcels	260	244
„ „ registered articles...	1,401	2,108
„ „ insured letters	nil	nil

From South Africa.

—	1906.	1905.
No. of mails from Cape Colony and Natal ...	14	15
„ „ bags mail received	58	65
„ „ parcels	208	171
„ „ registered articles...	317	310
„ „ insured letters	nil	nil

To South Africa.

—	1906.	1905.
No. of mails to Cape Colony, Natal and Australia	15	16
„ „ bags mail sent	41	79
„ „ parcels	142	127
„ „ registered articles	204	274
„ „ insured letters	nil	nil
„ „ letters (ordinary)	10,282	13,943
„ „ postcards	775	1,998
„ „ other articles (papers and books) ...	1,716	2,276

It will be noted that the total number of registered and insured articles that passed through the Post Office during the year was 853 less than in 1905. Parcels from the United Kingdom fell from 2,285 in 1905 to 1,771 during the year under review.

The transactions in money and postal orders during the years 1905 and 1906 were as follows:—

—	1906.	1905.
	£	£
To United Kingdom ...	4,954	5,109
To South Africa	545	629
From United Kingdom ...	678	434
From South Africa ...	678	613
Totals ... £	6,855	6,587

Commissions received on the above during the year amounted to £44 12*s.* 10*d.*, as compared with £50 11*s.* 1*d.* in 1905.

The value of money orders to the United Kingdom decreased by £580 11*s.* 9*d.*, whereas there was an increase of £426 14*s.* 8*d.* in postal orders, as compared with 1905. These differences are accounted for by the fact that the public prefer remitting by postal orders owing to the commissions thereon being at a lower rate than on money orders. During the year under review the commissions on all postal orders between the values of 2*s.* and 15*s.*, inclusive, were lowered by one half-penny. This reduction affected the United Kingdom only, and not the Colony. The small increase of £268 in the total remittances during the year, as compared with 1905, is apt to be misleading. More money was remitted through the Post Office in 1906 than in 1905, simply because the Imperial Treasury Chest was closed to the Colonial Government in September of the year under review, thus debarring the public from remitting home by means of bills on the Crown Agents. The total amount remitted to the United Kingdom by the public by means of these

bills, through the Post Office, and by the export of specie, was £23,644 during the year under review, as against £29,357 in 1905, a falling off of nearly £6,000.

The rate of postage between St. Helena and Egypt was reduced from 2½*d.* to 1*d.* half-ounce during the year.

(B.) Telegraphs and Telephones.

Telegraphs.—The staff of the Eastern Telegraph Company was increased by one during the year, making a total of 43.

Telephones.—The length of wire open for traffic was the same as in 1905. During the first ten months of the year the system was run by the Imperial Government. In that period 2,340 messages were dealt with, of which only 506 were private messages. The number of telephone offices and the staff employed was as in 1905. The upkeep of the service for the ten months cost £360. This sum does not include the pay of a staff-sergeant and a sapper linesman, who were solely employed on telephone work. Nor does it include the cost of transport. £10 odd was received during the same period for private messages, and the Colonial Government contributed £37 10*s.* towards the maintenance of the service.

For the last two months of the year the Colonial Government maintained the system at a cost of £42. During this period three public stations were closed, and the length of wire open to traffic was considerably lessened owing to the command lines not being required, and to the Prosperous Bay signal station having been vacated when the troops left. In the same period 393 messages were dealt with, of which 239 were official, a sum of £2 odd being received for private messages sent.

IX.—MILITARY FORCES AND EXPENDITURE.

The entire garrison, with the exception of a small detachment, embarked on board the steamship "Cluny Castle," and sailed for England on the 30th October of the year under review. The same ship carried away all ammunition, stores, &c., that were of any value. The actual strength of the so-called garrison on the 31st December, 1906, was 1 officer and 17 rank and file. All but 1 officer and 1 non-commissioned officer left the Colony two days later. St. Helena for the first time in her history as a British possession was left without a garrison of any kind. *Sic transit gloria S. Helenae.*

Towards the end of the year the local Volunteer force, known as the "St. Helena Volunteers (Sharpshooters)," was disbanded by Proclamation. The corps had practically ceased to exist some months before the actual disbandment took place, the first cause to damp the ardour of the members of the corps being the withdrawal of the infantry detachment early in

1905. Then came the news early in the year under review that the entire garrison was to be withdrawn in the autumn. This information proved to be the last straw, and with one or two notable exceptions all interest in the welfare of the volunteer movement in St. Helena seemed to disappear. The ultimate disbandment of the corps was the only alternative to adopt, although every effort had been made to preserve efficiency during a trying time.

The expenditure in connection with the St. Helena volunteers amounted to only £21 during the year under review, being £132 less than in 1905. Fifty rifles held by the corps on loan from the Imperial Government were returned prior to the departure of the garrison from the Colony.

X.—GENERAL OBSERVATIONS.

(A.) Roads.

The length of roads kept under repair by the Imperial Government was supposed to be the same as in 1905, but the amount expended thereon was only £270 during the first nine months of the year, the maintenance being abandoned on the 1st October. After that date no repairs were possible as the finances of the Colonial Government would not allow of any expenditure. Fortunately the last three months of the year were free from much rain and the roads consequently did not suffer to any great extent.

Eighty pounds was spent by the Colonial Government in repairs to the streets of Jamestown during the year under review.

(B.) Land Grants and General Value of Land.

Eight grants of land were made during the year, covering a total area of 15¼ acres. The Commissioners of Crown Property approved of three transfers of land during the same period.

Owing to the general depression prevailing, the value of land fell considerably. Rents were similarly affected. The sum of £905 15*s.* was collected in rents during the year, being £38 13*s.* 1*d.* less than in 1905.

(C.) Rate of Wages and Cost of Living.

Very little money was in circulation, especially during the latter end of the year under review, consequently little business was done by merchants and shopkeepers, thus reducing the cost of the necessaries of life. In fact, by the end of the year the cost of living generally had been reduced to a minimum. The cost of dairy produce, however, underwent no change. Those few people who can indulge in fresh butter have to continue paying the iniquitous price of 2*s.* 4*d.* a pound—the same price that ruled four years ago when times were fairly prosperous. The demand for fresh butter is certainly very

small, but that is no argument why the few people who indulge in it should be victimised as they are. The best tinned butter costs 1*s.* 6*d.* a pound. One wonders why the farmers do not put fresh butter on the market at that price or even less, and so ensure a ready sale. Enterprise is sadly lacking among St. Helenian farmers. I think the genial climate must be to a great extent accountable for the general apathy of the islanders. The supply of fish all through the year was greater than the demand, although fish is the staple diet (with rice) of the majority of the people. The price of mackerel fell to 1*d.* a dozen, whereas the price was 2*s.* four years ago when there was a ready sale for all kinds of fish. Even at the low price reached the supply exceeded the demand, and many scores of dozens of mackerel were thrown back into the sea every day. All fish are caught with hook and line. Nets are not used in St. Helena.

The withdrawal of the garrison caused employers to reduce the number of their employés and to reduce the wages of those kept on. Wages fell considerably, varying from 33 per cent. to 20 per cent. Begging petitions became the order of the day during the latter part of the year, and, needless to say, they still continue. During my first three and a half years in the Colony begging was almost unknown. In fact the actual "beggar" did not exist in the island. The situation in the labour market at the end of the year under review constituted a serious problem. An effort was made during the year to get employment for 200 men in the Transvaal mines. More than that number had applied to go, and were ready to accept any reasonable terms. Unfortunately, however, the conditions governing the importation of labour into the Transvaal debarred St. Helenians being employed in the mines. This failure to obtain what was at first considered as certain employment for at least 200 men, served to exaggerate the gravity of the situation, and the large number of unemployed able-bodied men continues to be a source of anxiety. The serious depression prevailing in St. Helena to-day is chiefly felt by the people of the Jamestown and Half-Tree-Hollow districts. Beyond these points the people are, and have been, above actual want, owing to the majority of them owning small garden plots where they cultivate potatoes and other vegetables. The demand for such produce is very small, but it serves to stave off hunger. Although there is plenty of fish to be bought at an absurdly low price, and although fish is the chief article of diet, nature, even in a good climate, will not bear up on fish alone. This fact has been forcibly brought to the attention of the charitably disposed by the number of begging petitions already referred to.

(D.) Departments and Institutions.

Most of the Departments have already been dealt with in this report. The Public Works Department expenditure for

the year amounted to £1,594. There was no extraordinary expenditure. £600 odd was expended in effecting repairs to buildings. Most of the Government buildings in Jamestown are very old and require continual repairing. The great enemy of all buildings in Jamestown, the white ant, has practically been conquered during the last five-and-twenty years through the use of teak, cypress, and jarrah wood. These woods are white-ant proof, and that pest has almost entirely disappeared, and exists only in houses where the owners thereof have disregarded the necessity of carrying out repairs with an ant-resisting wood.

The upkeep of the water system in the island cost £243 during the year under review. The time is not far distant when the country mains, especially that from Red Hill to Ladder Hill, will require renewing. When this necessity arises it is to be hoped funds will be available. These country mains at present require the most careful supervision. The expenditure under "Water" included the cost of repairing and improving the dam at the south end of Jamestown, which had suffered considerably from the heavy April rains. A decided improvement, too, was commenced in connection with the Rupert's water supply by the erection of a large reserve tank. The work, to complete this addition, will be carried on as funds permit.

Expenditure under other sub-heads worth mentioning was:—Forests and gardens, £238; scavenging, Jamestown, £190; Jamestown streets, £80; and relief works, £49.

The expenditure under "Relief Works" was almost entirely confined to rewards for rat killing. One penny a rat was offered during the last four months of the year, with the result that over 10,000 were killed. By this means a systematic war was waged against the rodents, and many poor families were enabled, by being of use to the community generally, to earn a small sum every week.

Good work was done by the Printing Department during the year. Mr. B. E. Grant was appointed Government Printer, as from the 1st January, 1906, vice Mr. C. W. Bruce, retired on pension. I regret to say Mr. Bruce died in October last.

The revenue and expenditure of the Poor Board and Public Market for the last five years, including the year under review, are given below:—

Poor Board.

Year.	Revenue.	Expenditure.
	£	£
1902	897	899
1903	829	821
1904	872	855
1905	881	881
1906	857	900

Public Market.

Year.	Revenue.	Expenditure.
	£	£
1902	197	186
1903	124	194
1904	325	208
1905	144	250
1906	102	117

I regret to state that the system (if it can be called such) under which the Market is run is far from satisfactory, both as to its finances and its general organization. The Market is run by a committee, appointed each year at the annual meeting of ratepayers, under Ordinance No. 8 of 1895. Each year since I came to the Colony, on the occasions of the annual audit of Market accounts by the Government Auditor, I have made suggestions to the Committee with a view to the Market being run on more modern lines. My suggestions have, however, so far fallen on barren ground. The Committee has a very incomplete system of check on the monies received and paid out. In fact, a dishonest employé would have no difficulty in feathering his own nest out of market takings without great fear of detection under the present system.

(E.) Miscellaneous.

The year 1906 must long be remembered by the present generation of St. Helenians as the year in which the Colony was entirely denuded of troops for the first time in its history. The news that the garrison was to be withdrawn was received in the colony early in the year and caused general consternation. As was anticipated, the removal of the troops seriously effected the economic situation in the Island. Suffice it is to say the withdrawal of the garrison is a *fait accompli*, and was part and parcel of one large scheme which embraced the distribution of the land forces throughout the Empire. No sane person would ever suggest that garrisons should be maintained in places simply for the benefit of the inhabitants. There can be no doubt, however, that the Governor of a Colony is afforded great moral support by the presence of even a small garrison, especially in a place isolated as is St. Helena. The several references I have made in this Report to the withdrawal of the troops have been made in no spirit of criticism, but simply with the view of representing the effect such withdrawal has had upon the economic situation. It is now fully recognised that St. Helena has in future to get along without her soldiers; and there is no reason, when once a start is made, why in time the Island should not regain much greater pros-

perity than was ever lost by the withdrawal of a small garrison. It may be, too, that such withdrawal will in the long run prove to be a blessing in disguise, as there can be no doubt that the departure of the troops has drawn attention to St. Helena in a manner, and to an extent, that could not have happened had the troops remained in the Colony. In fact, it is more than probable that very large numbers of the British public have, owing to St. Helena's plight, learnt for the first time where the Island is to be found on the map. In the past, knowledge of St. Helena has been more or less confined to the travelling and reading public. Any interest taken in the Island, other than by persons who have resided there, has been almost entirely of an historic nature. There are, I fancy, very few records connected with British enterprise more interesting than those dealing with the administration of St. Helena by the East India Company from 1673 to 1834. These records, with the exception of those volumes covering the years of Napoleon's captivity, are intact (in manuscript) at the present time, and are kept at the Castle in Jamestown.

These records besides being most interesting are at times most quaint reading and sometimes very saddening. It is to be hoped that some day the Colony's finances will allow of printing of them. They occupy no less than 246 large volumes, two of which are unfortunately missing, having been burnt in Governor Drummond Hay's time.

It will long remain in evidence that St. Helena was once a military post. In every conceivable spot are dotted about the ruins of the numerous batteries and emplacements erected by the East India Company. To these are now added the empty barracks, stores, etc., lately vacated by the troops, together with the modern 6-inch guns, in their unsightly tarpaulin covers, standing prominently out on the batteries at Ladder Hill and Munden's.

In April of the year under review, the inhabitants of the Island addressed a Petition to the Right Honourable the Secretary of State for the Colonies in which was clearly set forth the serious consequences that would necessarily ensue when the troops were withdrawn. The Petitioners made no complaint nor did they in any way question the judgment of His Majesty's Government in withdrawing the troops. They merely called attention to the serious results such withdrawal must mean to them, and prayed that some thought might be taken of their future welfare. Deputations waited upon the Secretary of State for the Colonies and the Secretary of State for War with a view to supporting the Petition.

I would make one last reference in this Report in connection with the withdrawal of the garrison from St. Helena. There can be no question but that such withdrawal has been a most serious loss to the Colony generally. Every class of the com-

munity suffers in some degree therefrom, especially the stock owners, who are harder hit than any other class. The fact remains, however, that even with a garrison of 200 men the prosperity of the Island had reached a very low ebb. Even if a small garrison had been retained it would still have been imperative to find some means by which St. Helena's lost prosperity could to some extent be restored to her. The fact is that St. Helena's plight to-day, although aggravated by the withdrawal of the garrison, is due (as the "Morning Post" said) to a change in the conditions of the world's trade. The Island is no longer, at all events in peace time, a port of any importance to shipping. The falling off in the number of calling ships, starting from the opening of the Suez Canal, has more than anything else brought St. Helena to the position in which the Colony finds itself to-day. There can be no doubt that St. Helena would rise in importance in time of war, more especially if the Suez Canal became closed. We have here, however, to consider the Island's situation as existing in the times of peace.

In concluding this Report I would again testify to the wonderful patience and good behaviour shewn by the inhabitants of St. Helena during a time of unusual stress. Instead of crime increasing there has been a marked decrease thereof. I doubt if in all His Majesty's dominions there is a more law-abiding community than the St. Helenians, or one which gives less trouble to the administration. These facts are particularly apparent when it is considered that a population of 3,500 persons, scattered over an area of forty-seven square miles, more or less, is kept in order by a police force numbering six men in all. I take this opportunity of placing on record that the good behaviour of the Islanders has contributed not a little towards making the task of administration during a somewhat anxious period very much easier than it otherwise would have been.

H. L. GALLWEY,

Governor and
Commander-in-Chief.

The Castle,
St. Helena.
April 16th, 1907.

APPENDICES.

K.

The following table gives a comparison of the revenue for 1905 and 1906, classified under the principal heads:—

Head.	1905.	1906.	Increase.	Decrease.
	£	£	£	£
Customs	5,720	4,865	—	855
Licences, taxes, auction dues ...	903	872	—	31
Fines, fees of office, and reimbursements in aid.	691	399	—	292
Post Office	767	630	—	137
Rents of Government property ...	945	906	—	39
Miscellaneous receipts	247	122	—	125
Interest	1,015	1,095	80	—
Total	10,288	8,889	80	1,479

L.

The following table gives the various instances of increase and decrease under the different heads of expenditure for 1905 and 1906:—

Head.	1905.	1906.	Increase.	Decrease.
	£	£	£	£
Sharpshooters...	153	21	—	132
Public debt	—	—	—	—
Pensions	742	735	—	7
The Governor	1,000	998	—	2
Colonial Secretary	661	655	—	6
Customs	777	883	106	—
Legal	347	326	—	21
Savings Bank...	736	725	—	11
Police	784	585	—	199
Medical	1,362	1,258	—	104
Education	711	710	—	1
Post Office	400	362	—	38
Miscellaneous Services ...	410	490	80	—
Public works recurrent ...	1,947	1,905	—	42
Public works extraordinary...	4,255	—	—	4,255
Port and Marine	512	464	—	48
Gaol	172	163	—	9
Total	14,969	10,280	186	4,875

M.

The following table shows the revenue and expenditure during the last five years:—

Year.	Revenue.	Expenditure.
	£	£
1902	23,505	18,613
1903	13,123	21,383
1904	13,361	18,552
1905	10,288	14,969
1906	8,889	10,280

N.

STATEMENT of ASSETS and LIABILITIES on 31st DECEMBER, 1906.

Liabilities.	Amount.	Assets.	Amount.
	£ s. d.		£ s. d.
Arrears due by Colony	—	In Colonial Chest	214 18 8
Personal	—	With Crown Agents	—
Pensions (*see* page 34)	51 18 2	Remittances in transit to C.A.	100 0 0
Miscellaneous (*see* page 34)	421 10 0	Advances due to Colony (*see* page 34)	4,369 13 9
Due to Savings Bank...	21,162 2 11	Arrears of Revenue (*see* page 34)	17 4 1
Due G.P.O. London	—	Parliamentary Grants	—
Due G.P.O. Capetown	1 14 10	Grants in Aid	—
Due Crown Agents amount overpaid on their Account Current, on 31st December, 1906.	3,815 17 1	Mail Service Due by G.P.O. London	4 11 5
		Invested for Savings Bank (*Actual cost*) ...	22,464 15 6*
	24,823 3 0		
Assets over Liabilities	2,348 0 5		
	27,171 3 5		27,171 3 5

* Market value £21,246 15*s.* 9*d.*

Advances Due to Colony.

—	Amount.
	£ s. d.
Board of Trade	11 0 0
Due by householders on account of drainage.	4,350 5 5
Trinidad Government ...	3 3 4
War Office	5 5 0
Total...	4,369 13 9

Arrears of Revenue.

—	Amount.
	£ s. d.
Rents	14 6 7
Assessed Taxes	1 7 6
Interest due on drainage accounts.	1 10 0
Total...	17 4 1

Pensions.

—	Amount.
	£ s. d.
James Hercules	2 5 8
Edward Samuel	3 0 10
John C. Melliss	46 11 8
Total	51 18 2

Miscellaneous.

—	Amount.
	£ s. d.
Bills of Exchange (unpaid)	405 15 0
Fees due to Emigration Agent	15 15 0
Total...	421 10 0

O.

COMPARATIVE STATEMENT of CUSTOMS REVENUE for the YEARS 1902 to 1906 inclusive.

Year.	Permits.	Wharfage.	Duty.	Tonnage Dues.	Warehouse Rent.	Water.	Total.
	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.
*1902	46 3 0	3,321 3 7	11,326 12 0	1,354 13 0	146 14 3	432 1 3	16,227 7 1
1903	33 18 9	1,846 18 11	4,620 0 10	363 12 0	86 7 4	216 12 6	7,191 10 4
1904	33 4 0	2,067 5 5	4,471 18 0	340 14 6	90 7 5	137 2 6	7,140 11 10
1905	30 14 0	1,788 19 4	3,348 4 3	268 12 0	105 2 8	178 7 6	5,719 19 9
1906	26 17 0	1,813 6 1	2,377 11 0	361 19 0	62 8 1	222 12 6	4,864 13 8

* During these years the Boer prisoners-of-war were interned in the Colony.

P.

TABLE showing VALUE of IMPORTS and EXPORTS for the YEARS 1902–1906 inclusive.

Imports.

Year.	United Kingdom.	Colonies.	Elsewhere.	Total.
	£	£	£	£
1902 ...	°93,920	6,558	—	100,478
1903 ...	55,120	3,111	2,228	60,459
1904 ...	71,652	4,294	32	75,978
1905 ...	46,283	6,307	197	52,787
1906 ...	38,812	2,563	16	41,391

° Includes £15,000 Specie.

Exports.

Year.	United Kingdom.	Colonies.	Elsewhere.	Total.
	£	£	£	£
1902 ...	*1,168	587	—	1,755
1903 ...	235	§12,000	—	12,235
1904 ...	594	146	—	740
1905 ...	†570	‖7,065	—	7,635
1906 ...	‡2,620	¶6,642	—	9,262

* Includes £250 Specie.
† „ £200 „
‡ „ £2,615 „
§ Specie. £12,000.
‖ Includes £7,000 Specie.
¶ „ £6,200 „

Q.

Comparative Statement of Shipping Entered and Cleared from 1902 to 1906.

—	1902.		1903.		1904.		1905.		1906.	
	Ships.	Tonnage.	Ships.	Tonnage.	Ships.	Tonnage.	Ships.	Tonnage.	Ships.	Tonnage.
British—										
Steam	66	228,337	34	164,944	40	198,718	38	206,238	30	177,004
Sailing	7	5,687	6	3,921	6	3,012	2	3,452	1	1,540
Foreign—										
Sailing	1	419	1	479	—	—	—	—	1	551
Total	74	234,443	41	169,344	46	201,730	40	209,690	32	179,095

R.

General Abstract of Vessels which have touched at the Port of Jamestown from January 1st, 1906, to December 31st, 1906.

Class.	American.		British.		Danish.		Dutch		French.		German.		Italian.		Norwegian.		Swedish.		Russian.		Total.	
	No.	Tons.	No.	Tons.	No.	Tons.	No.	Tons.	No.	Tons.	No.	Tons.	No.	Tons.	No.	Tons.	No.	Tons.	No.	Tons.	No.	Tons.
Vessels of War and Transports.	—	—	7	32,270	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	686	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	8	32,956
Mail and Merchant Steamers.	—	—	37	128,621	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	2,284	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	38	130,905
Merchant Sailing Vessels	1	2,460	17	26,494	2	752	3	5,933	1	504	3	3,749	5	4,566	7	6,251	—	—	—	—	37	50,709
Whalers	3	647	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	--	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	3	647
Total ...	4	3,107	61	187,385	2	752	3	5,933	1	504	5	6,719	3	4,566	7	6,251	—	—	—	—	86	215,217

1905.	Ships.	Tonnage.
Tonnage of Men-of-War and Transports...	9	31,949
„ „ Steamers	43	154,366
„ „ Sailing Vessels	47	55,826
Total	99	242,141

1905 Number of Vessels 99
1905 Tonnage 242,141

S.

Return of Diseases and Deaths in the Civil Hospital, St. Helena, during 1906 and 1905.

Disease.	1906.		1905	
—	Cases.	Deaths.	Cases.	Deaths.
General Diseases.				
Influenza	—	—	4	—
Enteric Fever	3	—	5	1
Dysentery	2	—	1	—
Beriberi	1	—	6	—
Pneumonia	—	—	2	—
Pyæmia	—	—	1	1
Septicæmia	—	—	2	2
Tetanus	—	—	1	—
Tubercle	9	—	8	2
Delirium Tremens	—	—	—	—
New Growth, non-malignant	1	—	—	—
New Growth, malignant	1	—	1	1
Anæmia	—	—	—	—
Diabetes Mellitus	—	—	2	—
Debility	1	—	2	—
Rheumatic Fever	1	—	3	—
Totals	19	—	38	7

Disease.	1906.		1905.	
—	Cases.	Deaths.	Cases.	Deaths.
Local Diseases of Nervous System.				
Neuritis	2	—	1	—
Meningitis	—	—	3	2
Myelitis	—	—	—	—
Hydrocephalus	—	—	—	—
Encephalitis	—	—	—	—
Apoplexy	1	—	—	—
Paralysis	—	—	—	—
Epilepsy	—	—	1	—
Hysteria	—	—	—	—
Melancholia	—	—	2	—
Mania (acute delirious)	—	—	1	1
Totals	3	—	8	3

Disease.	1906.		1905.	
—	Cases.	Deaths.	Cases.	Deaths.
Local Diseases.				
Disease of the Eye	4	—	1	—
Disease of Circulatory System.	3	2	6	2
Disease of Respiratory System.	2	—	1	—
Disease of Digestive System.	19	1	22	1
Abscess of the Liver	1	—	2	1
Disease of Lymphatic System.	4	—	—	—
Disease of Urinary System.	1	—	3	1
Disease of Generative System.	—	—	—	—
Disease of Male Organs.	1	—	1	—
Disease of Female Organs.	3	—	3	—
Disease of Bone	5	—	11	—
Disease of Joints	6	—	4	—
Disease of Cellular Tissue.	13	—	12	—
Disease of Skin	—	—	5	—
Totals	62	3	71	5

—	1906.		1905.	
—	Cases.	Deaths.	Cases	Deaths.
Injuries.				
General.	16	—	—	—
Local	—	—	10	—
Totals	16	—	10	—

COLONIAL REPORTS.

The following recent reports relating to His Majesty's Colonial Possessions have been issued, and may be obtained from the sources indicated on the title page :—

ANNUAL.

No.	Colony.	Year.
495	Turks and Caicos Islands	1905
496	Bahamas...	1905–1906
497	Barbados	„
498	Malta	1905
499	British Central Africa Protectorate	1905–1906
500	Colonial Survey Committee	„
501	Grenada	1905
502	Straits Settlements	„
503	Gibraltar	„
504	Trinidad and Tobago	1905–1906
505	St. Lucia...	1905
506	Mauritius	„
507	Southern Nigeria (Lagos)	„
508	Somaliland	1905–1906
509	Fiji	1905
510	St. Vincent	1905–1906
511	Sierra Leone	1905
512	Southern Nigeria	„
513	Basutoland	1905–1906
514	British Guiana	„
515	British Honduras	1905
516	Northern Nigeria	1905–1906
517	Bechuanaland Protectorate	„
518	Leeward Islands	„
519	East Africa Protectorate	„
520	Seychelles	1906
521	Hong Kong	„
522	Falkland Islands	„
523	Ashanti	„
524	Jamaica	1905–1906
525	Uganda Protectorate	„

MISCELLANEOUS.

No.	Colony.	Subject.
33	Southern Nigeria	Mineral Survey.
34	Montserrat	Agricultural Industry.
35	Antigua and St. Kitts-Nevis ...	Sugar.
36	West Indies	Work of Imperial Department of Agriculture.
37	Ceylon	Mineral Survey, 1904–5.
38	St. Helena	Agricultral (1884).
39	Jamaica...	Cayman Islands.
40	Northern Nigeria	Taxation of Natives.
41	East Africa Protectorate ...	Report on Forests of Kenia.

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1907.

COLONIAL REPORTS—ANNUAL.

No. 560.

ST. HELENA.

REPORT FOR 1907.

(For Report for 1906, *see* No. 526.)

Presented to both Houses of Parliament by Command of His Majesty.
June, 1908.

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1908.

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No. 560.

ST. HELENA.

(For Report for 1906, *see* No. 526.)

THE GOVERNOR TO THE SECRETARY OF STATE.

The Castle,
St. Helena,
13th March, 1908.

MY LORD,

I HAVE the honour to transmit herewith the Colony's Blue Book, together with my Annual Report thereon for the year 1907.

I have, &c.,

H. L. GALLWEY,
Governor and
Commander-in-Chief.

The Right Honourable
The Earl of Elgin and Kincardine,
K.G., G.C.S.I., G.C.I.E.,
Secretary of State for the Colonies.

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ANNUAL REPORT FOR THE YEAR 1907.

I.—FINANCIAL.

The financial condition of the Colony at the beginning of 1907 and the outlook ahead were such as to cause grave concern and to make it imperative that every effort should be made to adjust the finances to the altered circumstances in which the Colony found itself. To cut down the annual expenditure so as to fall within the revenue meant to seriously impair the efficiency of the public service. The only alternative was to make a determined effort to effect all possible economies so as to allow of ordinary efficiency being maintained. Even this involved the necessity of thorough reform and retrenchment in all branches of the administration. I do not propose to enumerate in this report the many economies effected. I will, however, content myself by mentioning the most important retrenchment adopted and which came into force on the 1st January of the year under review, namely:—a reduction, varying from 10 per cent. to 3 per cent., in the salaries of all permanent officials, from the Governor downwards. In addition to a 10 per cent. reduction in his salary the Table Allowance of £200 drawn by the Governor was abolished. That a determined effort was made to meet the altered financial condition of the Colony is plainly illustrated by the fact that the actual excess of expenditure over revenue for the year under review was only £850, whereas the annual estimate as submitted prior to the rigorous cutting down of expenditure showed a deficit on the year's transaction of £3,130, in spite of careful economy having been exercised when preparing the estimate. The reductions in pensionable officials' salaries alone amounted to £777, which reductions were the only alternative to reducing the staff by enforced retirements. Great credit is due to all officials for the loyal spirit in which they accepted the sacrifice they were called upon to make.

(A.) Revenue.

During the year under review a total revenue of £7,207 8*s.* 8*d.* was collected, being £767 13*s.* 8*d.* in excess of the estimate. As compared with the previous year the revenue showed a falling off of £1,681 6*s.* 2*d.*

The increase in revenue over the estimate was due to larger receipts, amounting to £300 odd, under "Customs" than was

anticipated; and under "Fines, Fees, and Reimbursements-in-aid" there was an excess of £351 odd, entirely owing to monies realized by the sale of old lead and other metals, the accumulation of years, and of a ship's cable which had lain on the wharf for a considerable time. The material named brought in a net profit of £367 odd. There were minor increases under all other heads excepting one, "Licences, &c.," which showed a small deficit of £8 16*s.* 9*d.* There were only three taverns open in Jamestown during the year as against five in 1906.

An improvement in the economic situation which set in during the last three or four months of the year accounted indirectly to some extent for the increased revenue.

Not included in the revenue was a sum of £329 7*s.* 4*d.* received from Jamestown householders during the year in repayments of principal and interest under the Drainage and Water Works Ordinances. The actual amounts due were: principal £550 0*s.* 7*d.*, and interest, £106 9*s.* 11*d.*—thus showing that about 50 per cent. of the claims remained unpaid at the end of the year. The acute depression existing in Jamestown made it quite impossible for many householders to meet the Government's demands. Each case was treated on its merits, and in some cases it was not only necessary to carry the annual instalment forward but also to write off the interest. The burden of these water and drainage claims is a veritable incubus to the majority of the Jamestown community. It is difficult to see how many of the debtors can ever possibly hope to pay back the monies advanced to them. Two out of every three houses in Jamestown are mortgaged, which fact adds to the financial worries of the owners thereof, many of whom were out of work most of the year and many have large families to support.

The revenue was £849 11*s.* 9*d.* less than the expenditure, the smallest deficit in any one year during the last five years.

(B.) Expenditure.

The year's expenditure amounted to £8,057 0*s.* 5*d.*, being a saving on the estimate of £235 12*s.* 7*d.*, and a decrease of £2,222 16*s.* 6*d.*, as compared with the previous year.

The principal savings were:—(a) "Customs," £72 13*s.* 3*d.*; caused by the refund of wharfage on coal supplied to H.M.S. "Pelorus" on the last day of the year not being claimed within the year; (b) "Police," £38 4*s.* 3*d.*; very few special constables employed, and casual savings under several sub-heads; and (c) "Miscellaneous," £36 0*s.* 6*d.*; no shipping of specie by Government necessary. There were small savings under every head but one, namely, "Medical," where there was

an excess of £6 odd, due to the cost of drugs, &c., supplied to the Zulu prisoners, the Colony being reimbursed for same by the Natal Government.

(C.) Assets and Liabilities.

There was a surplus of assets over liabilities on the 31st December, 1907, of £1,183 15*s.* 3*d.*, being a decrease of £1,164 5*s.* 2*d.*, as compared with the figures on the same date of the previous year.

Among the Colony's assets is the sum of £4,278 16*s.* 9*d.* due from householders under the Drainage and Water Works Ordinances. I fear very much that a large part of this amount will prove to be irrecoverable.

The most important asset is a sum of £20,516 9*s.* 6*d.* invested by the Colonial Government on behalf of the depositors in the Government Savings Bank. The market value of these investments on the 31st December, 1907, was £19,342 8*s.* 3*d.*

At the end of the year under review the Colony owed the Crown Agents for the Colonies the sum of £4,142 12*s.* 11*d.*, bearing interest at Bank rate. The amount named is only £326 15*s.* 10*d.* in excess of the debt owing to the Crown Agents on the 31st December, 1906, in spite of the year's expenditure having exceeded the revenue by £849 11*s.* 9*d.* The expenditure as estimated for 1908 has been cut down to below £8,000, and it is difficult to see how further retrenchments can well be made, and ordinary efficiency preserved, in order to keep the expenditure within the limits of the revenue, especially considering that the salaries of all permanent officials have already been reduced and current disbursements in every department have been cut down as far as is considered feasible. It is, however, satisfactory to note that signs of some prosperity returning to the Colony are not wanting, and the outlook for the coming year is decidedly brighter than was the case a year ago.

(D.) Grants.

In the revenue and expenditure returns are not included in the following Parliamentary grants allotted for special purposes during the year under review:—

(*a.*) £4,070, to establish the flax industry.

(*b.*) £300, for relief works.

Of the first grant the sum of £3,412 19*s.* 5*d.* was expended up to the 31st December, 1907. The whole of the £300 grant was expended early in the year in repairing the roads and wharf. The money was granted in the nick of time as the distress among the labouring classes had reached an acute stage by February of the year under review. It was an example of

the truth of the saying, Bis dat quo cito dat. There is no doubt that the grant coming when it did was more useful to the Government than a larger sum would have been later on, so grave was the situation at the time. The expenditure of the £300 was spread over about six or seven weeks, and not only relieved much distress but was the means of saving the roads of the Colony from suffering unduly from the unusually heavy summer rains.

There was a third grant allotted by His Majesty's Government towards the end of the year to provide for the laying of a new water main in the Longwood district. No expenditure, however, was incurred under this grant during the year under review.

His Majesty's Government also made a grant of £470 to the St. Helena Lace-making Association to enable that body to establish an industry in the Colony. £170 of the amount named was an actual grant, but £300 is on loan, to be paid back by degrees as the industry develops. The Association named is not a Colonial Government institution. The Government, however, advance the Association the necessary monies, within the limits of the grant, to cover its expenditure, recovering the monies as advanced from the Colonial Office. The Association has to furnish the Colonial Government with vouchers supporting expenditure in order that the Secretary of State for the Colonies can satisfy himself that the monies advanced by the Colonial Government are properly expended and accounted for.

(E.) Currency.

At the beginning of the year it was estimated that £5,000 was the cash circulation of the Colony. The Eastern Telegraph Company imported £1,250 during the year, whilst £2,917 was exported during the same period. The cash circulation must considerably increase now that the flax industry is established owing to the large disbursements made by the Government mill.

Bills on the Crown Agents were issued to the Post Office Department and to the public to the value of £6,146 16*s.* 6*d.* during the year under review, being a decrease of no less than £9,928 8*s.* 6*d.*, as compared with 1906. No commissions were received on those bills as there is practically only one merchant who requires them, and rather than consent to pay any commission he prefers to ship his specie home in spite of the extra expense incurred thereby. In any case, the Government can only afford to issue bills when they require cash to meet current expenditure, and so there are arguments in favour of the bills being issued free of commission.

In addition to remittances by means of specie and bills of exchange, the public remitted the sum of £3,809 3*s.* 10½*d.* to the United Kingdom through the Post Office, being £1,145 1*s.* 11½*d.* less than in 1906. Other particulars as to remittances through the Post Office are dealt with under the head of Postal Services.

II.—TRADE, AGRICULTURE, AND INDUSTRIES.

(A.) Trade.

The year under review is for many reasons a very interesting one as regards Customs statistics from the fact that the Island was left to its own resources, the garrison having been withdrawn in the previous year.

Revenue.

The Customs revenue amounted to £3,300 9*s.* 11*d.* (£300 9*s.* 11*d.* in excess of the estimate), being £1,564 3*s.* 9*d.* less than in 1906. This decrease is accounted for under every head as shown in the comparative statement O*, attached to this report, and as also hereunder specified.

"Permits."—Due to the fact that there were a smaller number of importers and also very few ships taking dutiable goods as stores. The deficit, however, under this head was only £4 16*s.*

"Wharfage."—Decrease £531 9*s.* 1*d.* Chiefly owing to His Majesty's ships taking less coal and patent fuel in 1907 than in 1906, and generally to the withdrawal of the garrison. Import of coal alone showed a deficit of £351 6*s.* Coal and patent fuel imported in 1907 was 1,851 tons, as against 4,193 tons in 1906.

"Duty."—Decrease £713 17*s.* 5*d.* The working classes having only casual employment it was difficult for them to get the necessaries of life, let alone beer and such luxuries. The most marked decrease is under beer:—78 hogsheads and 259 dozen bottles being imported during the year, as against 358 hogsheads and 743 dozen bottles in 1906. The absence of a garrison chiefly accounts for this drop. There was also a falling off in the importation as compared with 1906 of 553 gallons spirits, 1,081 gallons wine, and 660 lbs. tobacco.

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* Not printed.

"Tonnage Dues."—Decrease £178 16*s*. The explanation given under "Wharfage" applies to this head also, £117 2*s*. alone being accounted for by loss in tonnage of coal and patent fuel as compared with 1906.

"Warehouse Rent."—Decrease £9 2*s*. 9*d*. There being fewer packages cleared for home consumption, consequently a loss resulted under this head. There were less dutiable goods in bond at the end of 1907 than at any previous period.

"Water."—Decrease £126 2*s*. 6*d*. Two reasons account for this: first—there were very few ships requiring water, especially His Majesty's Navy; and secondly—the price charged for water was reduced in July of the year under review from 5*s*. to 2*s*. a ton in the case of merchant shipping and from 2*s*. 6*d*. to 2*s*. a ton for His Majesty's ships.

Expenditure.

The expenditure for the year amounted to £633 5*s*. 9*d*., being £249 8*s*. 8*d*. less than in 1906. £51 odd of this decrease is covered by reductions in the salaries of officials. £233 14*s*. was refunded to the Admiralty coal contractors for coal and patent fuel supplied to His Majesty's ships during the year under review. This amount is £138 16*s*. less than in the previous year.

Imports.

The general cargo imported during the year amounted to 3,448 tons, as against 6,113 tons in 1906. The total value of imports was £35,614 (including £1,250 specie), being £5,777 less than in the previous year. The value of goods in some instances exceeded the figures of the previous year. Drapery and dry-goods were valued at £3,312, as against £2,885 in 1906. This increase is chiefly accountable to the 100 men who emigrated to Namaqualand spending their advance money, and in several instances withdrawing their savings from the bank to purchase clothing outfits. The value of grain, seed, and oil cake imported amounted to £1,617, as against £934 in 1906. It is more than probable that a large quantity of these goods is still on hand, pointing to a reduction in imports thereof in the coming year. Machinery imported was valued at £1,217, as compared with £533 in the previous year. This increase was due to the comparatively large imports of phormium mill machinery by the Colonial Government.

£1,250 specie was imported during the year under review owing to the scarcity of coin in the Island at one particular period of the year. Owing to the Colonial Government not being in a position, as they were when troops were stationed in

the Colony, to grant bills of exchange to the merchants whenever required by the latter, those merchants had to export specie to England to meet their purchases in that country. This fact tended to reduce the amount of cash in circulation, and the importation of specie referred to was made by the Eastern Telegraph Company to pay the salaries of its officials. The large amount of money required by the Colonial Government to establish the phormium industry in the Island during the last four months of the year prevented a continuance of any considerable export of specie during that period as the Colonial Government was in a position to issue bills of exchange to the merchants in return for cash.

The chief decreases under imports as compared with 1906 were:—beer, £1,277; coal and patent fuel, £4,798; oilman's stores, £1,146; and rice, £492.

The chief imports were as follows:—

Articles.	1907.	1906.
	£	£
Beef and pork	1,162	1,203
Beer	644	1,921
Butter	1,454	1,477
Cigars, cigarettes, and tobacco	820	810
Chemicals, drugs, &c	508	640
Coal and patent fuel	3,332	8,130
Drapery and dry-goods	3,312	2,885
Flour	1,930	1,898
Grain, seed, and oilcake	1,617	934
Hardware, metals, &c.	684	758
Leather, boots, &c.	790	764
Machinery	1,217	533
Oil, paraffin	670	750
Oilman's stores	6,692	7,838
Rice	2,833	3,325
Specie	1,250	—
Spirits	775	1,015
Stationery	494	400
Sugar	2,171	2,294
Sundries	725	836
Tea	556	756
Wine	515	766

Exports.

The total value of exports was £4,704, including £2,917 specie, as against £9,262, including £8,815 specie, in 1906. Old metal to the value of £1,175 accounted, apart from specie, for most of the exports. In this year the first export, for many years, of phormium and aloe fibre (4 tons weight, valued at £103) took place. No export in phormium fibre was made by the Colonial Government as their mill only commenced work in

December of the year under review. The first shipment actually took place on January 5th, 1908.

(B.) Agriculture, Forests, and Gardens.

The year under review was fairly satisfactory for agriculture, but on the whole was not so good as 1906. Potato crops were below the average, and yet the supply was well in excess of the demand. Four shipments of potatoes, amounting in all to 35 tons, were exported to the Cape, resulting in a net loss of £46 to the exporters. The duties levied on the shipments referred to amounted to £79. Consequently under former conditions there would have been a profit of £33 on the 35 tons, or roughly £1 a ton. Not a large profit, but quite sufficient in these hard times to make it worth while exporting the produce. That the potatoes were of the best quality is quite clear, as the commission merchants who sold the same reported as follows: "There is no doubt that the quality is excellent and that they will always command the best figure in the market." Grain crops were small during the year owing to want of rain in August and September. Cattle were not in as good condition as in 1906—the pasture lands being more overstocked than ever. This fact necessitated the killing of many calves at birth—a lamentable state of affairs. Sheep did well and dairy produce was equal to demand. No hay was made. The most serious drawback to farming in St. Helena is the small demand for cattle and the low value realized for the few animals sold. There is practically no sale for beef except at most unremunerative prices. Several stock owners hold lands on lease, which lands they have to retain until they get rid of their stock. Farming is therefore a very poor commercial business in St. Helena in these days. The stock owners petitioned His Majesty's Government during the year under review praying that if no market could be found for their surplus stock some compensation might be granted them. The petition failed, and the farmers' only chance now lies in the possibility of the Admiralty consenting to purchase cattle from St. Helena for the use of His Majesty's ships in South African waters. Even then, owing to the low price of beef in South Africa, the animals must be sold at starvation prices. The farmers have already intimated that they are prepared to accept 2¼*d.* a pound live weight (equivalent to 4½*d.* a pound for beef) put on board at St. Helena. Failing the disposal of a large number of cattle there can only be one result. Many of the small owners have already had to dispose of their cattle in the local market at a price well below what it has cost them to raise those animals in order to meet pasturage and living expenses. They have been thus forced to sacrifice their capital which in many cases they have striven hard to obtain.

About 400 young trees were issued to landowners free of cost from the plantation nurseries during the year, and the same

number were planted out on Government lands. A considerable acreage of land was laid out in flax (*phormium tenax*). The planting of suckers was, however, chiefly confined to the two largest landowners, who between them laid down about 118,000 suckers covering about 110 acres. In addition to this, towards the end of the year, 32 landowners were granted a total sum of £451 to assist them in planting flax—the land to be planted being about 245 acres. The poorer owners of those referred to received wire and posts for fencing free of charge in addition to the money grant. Approximately, only about 30,000 suckers were laid down under the grant referred to by the 31st December, 1907. Some difficulty is being experienced by some owners in obtaining suckers for planting, as they (the suckers) only become available as the leaves are reaped for delivery to the Government mill; and in many cases the owners of the plants require those suckers to extend their own planting. It is plain that the only practical method of planting is by means of suckers. Efforts to grow the plant from seed failed utterly. The seed dealt with was brought from New Zealand by Mr. Fulton, the flax expert, and was laid down and treated strictly in accordance with his instructions. There is no doubt that at the best the raising of phormium plants from seed is a laborious process, and it would probably be at least seven years before the leaves were ready for reaping. The young plant is very delicate and requires careful rearing in its earlier stages. The seed was sown in June of the year under review, and took four months to come up, when it was entirely destroyed by grubs.

Mr. F. L. McDougall spent a month in the Colony towards the end of the year, during which time he laid out several experimental plots of the Island in black wattle seed. There are a considerable number of these wattle trees in St. Helena in a thriving condition. There is no doubt that the general climatic conditions of the Island are favourable to wattle growing. As a commercial success, however, such growing must be experimental for some years. Mr. McDougall left the Colony early in December with the idea of returning here a few months hence in order to satisfy himself as to the success or otherwise of his experimental plots.

The experiments made with ramie seed, referred to in last year's report, were not satisfactory, and the project was abandoned. There is nobody in St. Helena with any real knowledge in botanical matters, consequently any attempts made to grow new plants, &c., are carried out by mere amateurs. Even our gardeners, except where raising vegetable crops is concerned, are practically labourers with a slight knowledge of gardening thrown in, which knowledge they have very little opportunity of adding to.

The peach-fly has not yet been got rid of. I am afraid the apathy of the islanders will remain a bar to the pest referred

to being ever entirely eradicated from the Colony. A man may lose his entire crop of peaches, figs, &c., owing to the ravages of the pest. Among the poorer people this means a serious falling off in their small annual takings. It does not, however, by any means imply that the victim will move a hand to co-operate with the Government in its efforts to exterminate the fly. The indifference of St. Helenians in such matters is most marked. In June of the year under review the Government Entomologist (Mr. A. M. Lea) in Tasmania kindly informed me of a wonderful discovery which was accidentally made in Western Australia where it was found that pure kerosene oil attracted the peach-fly. Most satisfactory experiments had been made proving that the flies getting into the oil was in no way accidental, but that they were really attracted by it. I had printed copies of Mr. Lea's letter distributed to all fruit growers in St. Helena in the hope that the simple remedy recommended would be widely taken advantage of. The peach-fly season is now on (February, 1908), but I doubt if more than half-a-dozen growers will even take the trouble of trying the oil remedy. Under the Peach-fly Ordinance of 1904 the Governor of the Colony has power to appoint inspectors to enforce the terms of that Ordinance. Unfortunately the Colony's finances will not allow of paid inspectors being appointed. I am afraid that until paid supervision can be arranged for the peach-fly will continue to inconvenience a community who are either unable or unwilling to help themselves in a very simple matter. The only gardens in which the terms of the Peach-fly Ordinance are rigorously (or even to any great extent) observed are at Plantation and Maldivia Gardens, Jamestown.

The sale of fruit from Maldivia for the year amounted to £11 8*s.* 7*d.*; and the amount realized by the sale of trees from Government lands was £10 12*s.* 6*d.* The figures in 1906 were £32 4*s.* 4½*d.* and £17 5*s.* 9*d.* respectively.

(C.) Industries.

Phormium.—St. Helena at last possesses a genuine industry of her own. On December 2nd of the year under review the Colonial Government phormium mill commenced regular work under most favourable circumstances. From 1875 to 1881 the Colonial and Foreign Fibre Company ran a mill in Jamestown at which they turned out both aloe (*Furcræa gigantea*) and flax (*phormium tenax*) fibre, chiefly the latter. The Company was not at all successful as a commercial undertaking. I fancy want of business methods chiefly attributed to this end. During the last four years the Company had no less than 16 machines at work, driven by two engines, and yet their largest output in one year was 615 bales, valued at

£1,867, a bale weighing 400 lbs. I do not forget that machinery for dealing with phormium leaves has greatly improved since those days. To return, however, to the present time. After the matter had been thoroughly gone into between the Colonial Office and this Government, and Professor Dunstan of the Imperial Institute having given his opinion in favour of the establishment of the New Zealand hemp industry in St. Helena, the New Zealand Government kindly lent the Colony the services of an expert to start the industry on a firm footing. Mr. C. J. Fulton was the official selected for the work. He arrived in the Colony in May, and, having reported favourably on the suitability of St. Helena for phormium growing, proceeded to London a month later in order to purchase the engine and other gear for the mill, the stripping and scutching machines having already been ordered from New Zealand. Mr. Fulton, accompanied by Mr. A. W. Hall (an experienced New Zealand phormium miller), returned to the Colony in August, and the work of erecting the mill commenced. Previous to proceeding to England Mr. Fulton selected a site for the mill at Longwood. This selection called forth much adverse criticism, but chiefly by persons quite unacquainted with the requirements aimed at. The only real objection to the site chosen was its distance away from the Western and Sandy Bay districts of the Island. No site, however, could possibly suit every grower equally. Consequently whatever site had been fixed upon would have found its adverse critics. The extraordinary topographical features of St. Helena make it a very difficult matter to find a suitable site for a phormium mill, for the working of which two essentials are imperative: firstly, you must have a good water supply from a stream that is not depended upon for drinking water by houses situated below the site of the mill, as the water passing through the mill becomes contaminated with vegetable matter. Secondly, a large drying or bleaching field is necessary, which should be as flat as possible. There are very few fields in St. Helena not on a slope. The site chosen possesses the two advantages named. In order, however, to obtain a regular and sufficient supply of water it was found necessary to construct a 30,000 gallon concrete tank in the mill field. This tank is fed from the water main; and now that the mill has been working for four months it has been found that the mill requirements are not inconveniencing the supply of water to the general public in the district concerned. I am quite satisfied that the site chosen is the best possible under the circumstances. In fact, except for its distance away from certain phormium plantations, it is an ideal site. The erection of the mill buildings—consisting of engine room; stripping, scutching, and baling sheds; fibre store; general store; office; and stable—was superintended by Honorary Major Michie, late R.E., whose knowledge in building matters was of great assistance to this Government. The buildings were completed

on the 30th November of the year under review, and milling was started two days later. The equipment of the mill consists of a 32-b.h.p. oil engine (burning about 18 gallons of oil a day), built by Messrs. R. Hornsby and Sons, driving one Booth-Macdonald stripping machine and one scutcher. At present 4 tons of leaves are dealt with daily, producing about ½ ton of fibre and tow. The stripping machine is only worked for about five hours a day, the scutcher for the entire day, eight and a half hours. It is considered advisable at the start not to deal with more than the 4 tons of leaves a day until it is seen how long the leaves ready for reaping in the Island are likely to last. The great object is to ensure a sufficient supply of leaves to last out until the plants put down lately are ready for cutting, and so avoid shutting the mill down. I would mention that besides the manager and local manager (under instruction) the mill employs 16 hands, who earn a total weekly wage of over £12. The mill was formally opened by the Governor of the Colony on the 5th December, and it was very evident that many sceptics, who in the past had doubted the wisdom of establishing a phormium mill in the Island, had seen fit to change their minds. I have all along maintained that the industry, if properly managed, would prove a valuable asset to the community. I am more than ever of this opinion now that I have seen the mill at work for nearly four months. Provided the price of fibre in the London market does not fall to any very great extent the industry will flourish. To ensure success, however, the roads of the Colony must be kept in fair repair. A mistaken idea has somehow got abroad that donkey transport can keep the mill supplied with leaves. This is quite a wrong impression. Donkeys have not the necessary stamina. Carts alone, preferably drawn by bullocks, will keep the mill supplied with the required quantity of leaves. For this transport the roads must be kept in fair order. The hilly nature of the Island causes heavy rain to inflict abnormal damage to the roads in a very short space of time. The fact of the mill paying out about £3,000 locally every year, thus increasing the cash circulation by about 60 per cent., is in itself sufficient to show that the establishment of the industry must prove a great benefit to the community as a whole. For the first month the management of the mill was in Mr. Fulton's hands. That gentleman left the Colony on January 5th, 1908, handing over the management to Mr. A. W. Hall. The thanks of this Government and of the community generally are due to the New Zealand Government for having come to the Colony's assistance by sending an expert to establish the first genuine industry possessed by St. Helena. Needless to say the thanks of this Government were conveyed by me at the time to New Zealand Ministers through Lord Plunket, the Governor of the Dominion. Although no shipment of produce from the mill was made in 1907, owing to there being no steamer until January 5th of the following year by which to ship, it may not

be out of place to state in this report that by the 1st March, 1908, about 28 tons of fibre and tow had been shipped to England by the Government mill. The Union-Castle Steamship Company in order to encourage the industry very generously offered to carry the first 60 tons of fibre and tow to England freight free—an offer which was gladly accepted. It was an unfortunate coincidence that just about the time the Government mill started work the price of fibre in the London market fell by about £8 a ton. The funds necessary to establish the industry and place it on a sound footing were granted by Parliament, the actual grant voted being £4,070.

Besides the Government phormium mill there is another mill running, the property of Mr. T. L. M. Adams. This mill was established more than a year ago, but the output of fibre so far has been very small—3 or 4 tons in all. Mr. Adams works under great difficulties owing to a very inadequate water supply. On the other hand the transport of leaves costs him practically nothing as there is a very extensive flax plantation alongside the mill, which is situated 2,000 feet above the sea. Mr. Adams does his stripping only in the country, scutching being carried out in Jamestown.

Aloe.—Very large quantities of the so-called aloe, *furcræa gigantea*, are growing in St. Helena, the fibre of which is even more valuable if anything than phormium fibre. In the case of the former plant, however, it takes forty tons of leaves to produce one ton of fibre, as against one ton of fibre from eight or nine tons of phormium leaves. This fact is a serious obstacle to the *furcræa* being worked at a profit. It is plainly imperative that the milling plant should be erected close to where the leaves are growing. Such plant, too, must be portable and so allow of it being moved about from one plantation to another. Messrs. Deason Brothers shipped home a ton or so of aloe fibre during the year under review which realized £29 a ton in the London market. The industry, however, has not yet been taken up seriously by the firm named.

Lace-making.—A start was made during the year towards establishing the lace-making industry in St. Helena. An Association was formed under the presidentship of the Bishop of the Diocese with a Committee of ladies to assist his Lordship in the management of the Association. Two gentlemen were appointed honorary treasurers, and are responsible to the president in all matters of finance. Mrs. Ord Marshall, the honorary secretary of the League of Empire, kindly interested herself in the venture, and with the St. Helena Committee in London was in a great measure instrumental in obtaining through the Right Honourable the Secretary of State for the Colonies a grant from the Imperial Treasury of £170 to cover the expenses of an expert for six months. The Treasury also loaned the Association the sum of £300 to cover working

expenses during the initial stages of the industry. The Association was fortunate in securing the services of Miss Penderel Moody as expert manageress for a period of seven months—August, 1907, to March, 1908. A most encouraging start has been made in the industry, which in addition to lace-making includes fine needlework. A considerable number of women and girls are employed, all of whom are most interested in their work. The employment of these women workers at a small wage has done not a little to relieve the depression among the poorer classes, especially in Jamestown, where the majority of the workers live. As regards the Treasury loan of £300, the idea is that it shall be repaid by small instalments from time to time as the Right Honourable the Secretary of State for the Colonies shall direct. It was hoped that the fibre produced from young phormium leaves would prove suitable for spinning and weaving purposes, and so be used in the industry as a distinctly St. Helenian characteristic. All kinds of devices for cleaning the fibre were employed, but in no case were results really satisfactory. One or two experiments produced a suitable thread for spinning, but the labour and time involved was too costly to make the thread of any practical use. I referred the matter to Professor Dunstan for his advice, and he informed me that until considerable improvements are effected in the preparation of phormium fibre the material will not be suitable for lace-making.

Phosphates.—Great disappointment was caused during the year over the phosphate deposits (which had been pronounced by a manganese expert to be valuable) being pronounced as not worth working. Messrs. James Morrison and Company sent out an expert, who, after thoroughly going into the matter, reported unfavourably on the deposits. I am informed that the expert, Mr. Cannon, made no less than 400 different analyses of the deposits from the different localities. This fact should be sufficient to convince the most sceptical that the phosphates in question are not of sufficient commercial value to export. I still, however, cling to the belief that some day money will be made out of the discarded product.

(D.) Shipping.

The shipping returns for the year under review are very melancholy reading. Shipping is diminishing in ever increasing quantities. Only 57 ships called (that is, were boarded by the harbour master) during the year, being 29 less than in 1906. Thirty-nine of the ships were British. Among the ships were four British ships-of-war, including H.M.S. "Crescent" flying the flag of Vice-Admiral Sir John Durnford, K.C.B., D.S.O., who was on his way to England after handing over command of the South African Squadron to Vice-Admiral Sir Edmund Poë, K.C.V.O. The following table, covering the five years during which I have administered this Government,

shows that by degrees St. Helena is becoming of less importance to merchant shipping as time goes on:—

Year.	Number of ships that called.	Tonnage.
1903 ...	125	250,226
1904 ...	107	254,069
1905 ...	99	242,141
1906 ...	86	215,217
1907 ...	57	149,182

Coupled with the general decrease in shipping, the continual decrease in the arrivals of British sailing vessels is very marked. The falling off by 33 per cent. of vessels calling in 1907, as compared with 1906, is particularly noticeable as the price of provisions, meat, and vegetables particularly, was very low during the year under review. Further, the price of water to the shipping was reduced during the year from 5*s.* to 2*s.* a ton. This reduction was carried out in the hope that more sailing vessels would call in for water, a hope that so far has not been realized. Even the few vessels that did call required very little in the way of stores, provisions, and water. The only good customers are warships and whalers. There is a probability of American whaling vessels calling at St. Helena more frequently than in the past few years. Whaling crews can always be readily replenished at the Island, as the St. Helenian is a good seaman. The falling off in calling ships has done more than anything else to deprive St. Helena of the little prosperity she formerly possessed. The withdrawal of the garrison of 150 men was as nothing in its evil effects compared to the decline in shipping. The people of Jamestown, particularly, are suffering from the changed times. They cannot compete with their country brethren in the way of obtaining agricultural labour. The fact is that the majority of town men do not give satisfaction as labourers. They cannot stand the country rains for one thing, and prefer the warmer climate of Jamestown to the temperate climate of the highlands. The Jamestown folk are a shipping community without any shipping, and when placed on agricultural or road work are somewhat like fish out of water. I am inclined to think that as the phormium industry develops the time is not far distant when the Government may find it necessary to move families from the Jamestown and Half-tree-Hollow districts and settle them in the country. Jamestown as a shipping port is practically played out. This fact is due not only to the Cape route having been abandoned for the Suez Canal route, but also on account of the substitution of steam for sailing vessels.

I would add that the arrangement for supplying pure spring water to the shipping direct to the water boats, in place of the old style of supply from the reserve tanks on the wharf, has answered well, and no inconvenience has been experienced as was anticipated.

III.—LEGISLATION.

Seven Ordinances were enacted during the year under review —the most important being:—

No. 1.—"The Liquor Licence Ordinance," further amending the law in force with reference to licences for the sale of intoxicating liquors. This Ordinance did away with a grocer's licence which had been introduced under Ordinance No. 7 of 1906.

No. 4.—"The Juvenile Smoking Prevention Ordinance." Although there were only two prosecutions under this Ordinance during the six months it was in force, the Inspector of Police reports that juvenile smoking in St. Helena has been most effectually stopped. The fact is, boys are practically unable to purchase cigarettes and tobacco as the shopkeepers are very particular in strictly complying with the law governing the sale of smoking materials.

No. 6.—"The Customs Amending Ordinance," to reduce the Tariff of charges for water to the shipping. Under this Ordinance the charge for delivering pure spring water into water boats for the supply of His Majesty's ships and other vessels is 2*s.* per ton. Formerly the charge was 2*s.* 6*d.* per ton for His Majesty's ships and 5*s.* per ton for all other vessels. The reduction was made in the hope that more sailing ships might be induced to call in for water. That hope was not realized during the year under review.

No. 7.—"The Tax Amendment Ordinance," to repeal the tax on water boats, baggage boats, and passage boats, and substitute a reduced tax on those boats. This Ordinance came into force on the 1st January, 1908. So very few ships call at St. Helena now-a-days that owners of the class of boats referred to have little opportunity of doing business therewith.

Two Proclamations were issued during the year under review, both dealing with the Game season.

IV.—EDUCATION.

During the year under review there were nine elementary schools in various parts of the Island, being an increase of one, as compared with the previous year. The schools contained an aggregate of 634 scholars, namely, 326 boys and 308 girls, an increase of 11 over 1906. Of the total number given, 569 scholars attended the three Government schools. The new school, known as Blue Hill School, was opened in January of the year under review and is situated in the Western district of the Island. The school is doing good work, and is the first school in the Island to institute the modern system of teaching from the commencement. The teacher received his training in the Government schools, and had the advantage of working as assistant teacher for two years under Mr. Tucker. The Inspector of Schools, the Reverend Canon Porter, reports that the work of the schools generally, as shown at the examinations, exhibited manifest improvement, there being less stereotyped work and less cram than formerly. The substitution of purely oral work in place of text books in the Government schools has borne bood fruit. The inspector reports particularly favourably on the Government Senior School. This school stands well ahead of all others. Canon Porter states: "The school, after a full year's uninterrupted work, has probably reached the highest pitch of development as an elementary school"—and again: "St. Helena has at last what may be called a model elementary school fed from the Government Junior School, which occupies another building."

Owing to the want of funds the Colonial Government cannot attempt to go beyond elementary education excepting to the extent of the Pupil Teachers' classes under Mr. Tucker. The great object therefore is to improve the methods and facilities of elementary teaching as much as possible. With this end in view I was anxious to introduce a scheme, drawn up by Mr. Tucker, tending to a complete assimilation of methods in at least all the Jamestown schools, with the Government Senior School as a Higher Elementary School and Pupil Teachers' Centre. Unfortunately those persons responsible for the management of the non-Government schools (which are practically Church schools) were not prepared to co-operate in the scheme, and so my idea fell to the ground. This Government's efforts to further improve educational methods must, I fear, be confined to Government schools. There can be no substantial improvement in the non-Government schools until they have some one to supervise them who has a trained knowledge of modern method. Want of funds prevents certificated teachers from being engaged, but this is no reason why an effort should not be made by the management of the schools concerned to improve upon the system of teaching as at present existing in the majority of those schools.

To return to the Government schools, and more especially to the Government Senior School. The progress made in the year under review was most marked. Definite for indefinite instruction has resulted. The curriculum has been enlarged, thus developing the intelligence, observation, and reasoning powers of the children. With this end in view, elementary science, object and nature study lessons have been introduced in the Senior School. English literature, with Shakespeare as a special subject, has been utilized in assisting the children to acquire a facility in literary composition. That this has been successfully accomplished, particularly when the parlous state of education in the past is taken into account, is proved by the work done in competition for Lord Meath's Challenge Cup and the League of Empire Prize for the best essay *inter* all Primary Schools of the Empire. The subject for 1907 was "The History of British India." Eva Fagan of the Senior School was successful in winning the prize and trophy. The child's achievement was really a notable one, bringing great credit both on herself, her teachers, and the school to which she belongs. In this connection much disappointment has been caused in the Senior School by the fact that the Prize Essay subject for 1908 is of such a nature that it would be almost impossible for St. Helena children to compete with any chance of success, for in the present unsatisfactory state of the Island's affairs no one could with any degree of satisfaction pen any inducements to a would-be emigrant to settle in St. Helena, as the subject of the essay demands.

An important branch of the work done in the Government schools is the training in physical exercises in and out of school, and in organized games. A very successful Schools Cricket League, in which all schools take part, has been in operation during the past two years. Hygiene is taught in the Government schools with excellent results.

Good progress was made by the Government pupil teachers in their course of instruction under Mr. Tucker. The greater majority of the students show marked interest in their studies, and there is generally speaking a better tone observable. Hardly any advantage is taken of these classes by the non-Government pupil teachers. The Government school teachers are compelled to attend. The discipline observed in the other schools does not, I fear, come up to this standard, and the teachers are allowed to please themselves in the matter.

With a few exceptions compulsory attendance at school is no longer looked upon as a hardship, but is welcomed alike by parents and children. On the other hand very few children remain at school after the age of fourteen—their parents requiring them for work at home. A very large number of the parents are uneducated and therefore are not able to realize the advantages gained by keeping their children at school a year or two longer, especially when the child is making good progress.

Among the retrenchments of the year was the abolition of the post of Attendance Officer. This fact made it difficult to closely supervise the regular attendance of children at the several schools. There were 25 prosecutions under the Education Ordinance during the year for non-attendance, and 19 of the defendants were convicted. There were many more cases which should have, under ordinary circumstances, come into Court, but the Board of Education found it necessary to be very lenient in the matter. The prevailing distress seriously affected the attendance of many children, especially in those schools situated in the Jamestown and Half-Tree-Hollow districts. So many parents were unable to provide breakfast for their children. These children either stayed away from school, or, if they attended, were not able to give any real attention to their work. This disability was most marked during the greater part of the year under review. Things are improving though.

The nucleus of a Teachers' and Senior Scholars' Library was formed during the year under review. At present the library contains 400 volumes, thanks to the generosity of the Victoria League, the Kyrle Society, and the Gilchrist Trust. The kind thought which prompted these bodies to lend St. Helena a helping hand in her days of trial is much appreciated by the community generally. The books are made good use of by the children and by the teachers who are under training, and will be, as time goes on, an important educational factor.

Among the economies effected on the 1st January, 1907, was the abolition of the salary of the Inspector of Schools. The Reverend Canon Porter, however, very generously offered to continue in office without salary. The thanks of this Government are due to Canon Porter for his consideration.

The expenditure under education for the year under review amounted to £623, as compared with £710 in 1906. Included in the expenditure were grants of £30 and £25 respectively to the Benevolent Society and Hussey Charity schools.

V.—GOVERNMENT INSTITUTIONS.

(A.) Hospitals.

There is one hospital in the Colony which belongs to the Colonial Government, being situated in Jamestown.

The admissions to hospital during the year amounted to 114, as compared with 104 in the previous year. The daily average of patients in hospital was 8·2.

There were four deaths among the patients, giving a death-rate of 3·5 per cent., as compared with three deaths and a mortality of 2·8 per cent. in 1906. Two out of the four deaths were due to accidents, one case being moribund on admission. Both were cases of fracture of the base of the skull. Twelve cases of enteric fever were admitted to the Hospital during the period under review, of which one proved fatal. In the previous year there were three cases of enteric and no deaths. The one death in 1907 from the disease named was that of a boy who was not brought to the hospital until the disease was well advanced and hemorrhage from the bowel had already appeared. There were two admissions during the year for tubercle, as compared with nine in the previous year. In both cases the disease had been of some standing.

The Colonial Surgeon reports that the efficiency of the nursing staff continues to be maintained at a high level. Nurse Marriott completed her three years' engagement under the Government in August of the year under review and was succeeded by Nurse Moloney.

(B.) Savings Bank.

At the close of the year under review there were the names of 138 depositors in the Bank's books, being an increase of 19 during the year. This increase was chiefly accounted for by the relatives of several of the Port Nolloth men depositing small sums in the Bank. Several accounts were closed during the same period, a few of which were those of the oldest depositors on the Bank's books. Want of employment and hard times generally were the reasons assigned for the closing of the accounts in question.

In my last report under this head I gave it as the Manager's opinion that 1906 was the worst year for employment he had known in St. Helena in an experience covering over fifty years. The early months of 1907 were even worse in this respect, but during the last quarter of the year there was a marked improvement.

The following figures show the year's transactions, as compared with 1906:—

—	1907.	1906.
	£ s. d.	£ s. d.
Deposits	1,443 16 0	3,386 1 0
Withdrawals	3,553 10 7	8,965 19 4
Interest paid on deposits	594 0 4	684 15 3

The total amount deposited during the year under review was less than in any one year for the last twenty-one years and more.

On the 31st December, 1907, the Bank's reserve amounted to £19,646 8*s.* 8*d.*, being a decrease of £1,515 14*s.* 3*d.*, as compared with the same date a year previous. The reserve above quoted is larger than in any year preceding 1900.

The revenue of the Bank for the year was £746 0*s.* 5*d.*, or £236 17*s.* 10*d.* less than in 1906. The expenditure for the same period was £552 12*s.* 11*d.*, being £81 7*s.* 5*d.* less than in the previous year. The profit on the year's transactions works out at £193 7*s.* 6*d.*, as compared with £348 17*s.* 11*d.* in 1906.

VI.—JUDICIAL STATISTICS.

(A.) Criminal Statistics.

Supreme Court.—There was one case only during the year under review: a misdemeanour under the Criminal Law Amendment Act, resulting in an acquittal.

Police Court.—Crime continues to decrease. Only 106 cases came before the Court during the year, being 12 less than in 1906, as shown in the following table:—

Cases.	1907.	1906.
1. Assaults and other offences against the person ...	13	13
2. Malicious injury to property	—	—
3. Offences against property other than malicious ...	15	2
4. Offences against highways and other acts relating to the social economy of the Colony.	36	53
5. Soliciting, drunkenness, &c.	42	50
Totals	106	118

None of the cases were of a serious nature. Three were cases of desertion from American whalers, and one came under the Juvenile Smoking Prevention Ordinance. Of the 36 cases under sub-head 4 of the above table no less than 25 were prosecutions under the Education Ordinance, in 19 of which convictions were obtained. One man was convicted for concealing in his house a deserter from a whaler. The Police Magistrate reports that drunkenness continues to decrease, and that even offences connected with the use of bad language are few and far between. I consider that the total absence of serious crime among a population of nearly 4,000 people

during a year of unusual depression is most creditable to the islanders. The patient manner in which the poorer classes accepted their lot was nothing short of remarkable.

(B.) Prisons.

The number of prisoners received into the gaol during the year was 45, being 10 more than in the previous year. As, however, nearly all of the offences committed were of a trivial nature, the duration of the sentences was considerably shorter than in 1906. The daily average number in gaol was 1·16, as compared with 2·65 in the previous year. The daily average recorded is 100 per cent. less than in any year since I assumed office in the Colony. The gaol was empty during 116 days of the period under review. There was no sickness among the prisoners and the sanitary conditions of the gaol continue to be satisfactory.

——	Male.	Female.	Total.
Number of prisoners in gaol on 31st Dec., 1906	3	1	4
" " " admitted, 1907	32	13	45
" " " discharged, 1907	35	14	49
" " " in gaol on 31st Dec., 1907	—	—	—

The cost of the gaol for the year was £122 10*s.* 6*d.*, being a decrease of £40 5*s.* 6*d.* on the figures for 1906.

Twenty-five Zulu rebels were transported to the Colony from Natal in June of the year under review. They are confined in a portion of the Ladder Hill Barracks under a guard of two Natal and three local warders. Their diet, including a tobacco allowance, is a very liberal one; and since they arrived in the Colony only one trivial complaint was made by them, which was immediately remedied. The behaviour of the prisoners has been excellent.

(C.) Police Force.

The efficiency of this small force was maintained during the year. 193 cases were noticed by or reported to the police during the year—being 37 less than in 1906. Eighty-seven trivial complaints, in which action in the Courts was unnecessary, were investigated and disposed of by the police.

VII.—VITAL STATISTICS.

(A.) Population.

The civil population on the 31st December, 1907, was estimated at 3,485, as compared with 3,526 in the previous year. In addition to the number given were 2 Natal warders and 25 Zulu prisoners, also the crew of H.M.S. "Pelorus," then in port, numbering 234—making a total on the date named of 3,746. The decrease in the civil population of 41 was chiefly acounted for by the emigration of 183 persons including 100 men who proceeded to the Namaqualand mines and 15 men shipped in whaling vessels. The number of immigrants for the same period amounted to 45, not including the warders and Zulu prisoners referred to above. The figures in 1906 were 97 and 38 respectively.

The births numbered 134 (including 4 still-born and 32 illegitimate), as against 118 (3 still-born and 37 illegitimate) in the previous year.

There were only 36 deaths (including 3 seamen), as against 46 (including 3 seamen and 1 soldier) in 1906. The death-rate among the civil population amounted to 9·4 per thousand, or under 1 per cent., as compared with 11·9 per thousand in the previous year. Out of the 33 deaths among the civil population 9 were under the age of twelve months and 15 over the age of 70 years. Consequently the death-rate among persons between the ages of 1 year and 70 years works out at the abnormally low figure of 0·25 per cent.

The marriages numbered 17, being an increase of 6 over the previous year.

(B.) Public Health.

The general health of the population was maintained at a standard above the average. The death-rate of 9·4 per thousand given above is the lowest yet recorded for St. Helena.

The Colonial Surgeon in his annual report refers to the incidence of sickness within the limits of Jamestown, in the case of two diseases, as presenting features worthy of interest. The report runs:—

"I refer to minor epidemics of enteric fever and diphtheria respectively. With regard to the first, there were in all twelve cases. Six of these occurred in two adjoining houses, and they appeared some short time after a marked dampness had been noticed in two cellars, used as living rooms. This dampness to a great extent cleared away after a leak in a surface drain which ran past the house, but on the opposite side of the roadway, had been repaired. That the soil was infected, and thus in some way conveyed the disease is merely conjecture, and

could only have been confirmed by elaborate bacteriological processes at present beyond the Colony's resources. The remaining cases of enteric fever were not connected with these two houses nor with each other, and no explanation of them was to be found.

"The first case of diphtheria made its appearance in the month of January, and further cases occurred in the months of February, May, June, August, and December, making a total of sixteen cases. There was one death, that of a child aged three years, representing a mortality of 6·2 per cent. At the time of the first appearance of diphtheria there were cases of sore throat amongst the school children, and some of these may have been mild attacks of the graver disease, but antitoxin was only administered in cases where clinical signs left little room for doubt. With the exception of two cases of diphtheria in 1905 it is fifteen years since the disease is recorded as prevalent in the Island.

"It is worthy of note that the two diseases whose prevalence a good system of drainage is expected to reduce should so soon after the completion of the Jamestown Sewerage Scheme have shown an unusual activity. The good health of the Island, therefore, cannot very well be attributed to the effect of draining Jamestown. Were one to speculate upon the causes of the reduction in the sickness and mortality, probably that one nearest to the truth would be found in the enforced moderation in diet arising out of the economic conditions which existed in 1907. On the other hand I regret to record that two deaths amongst children under one year of age were practically due to starvation. In each case the father of the family had been out of work for many months and had evidently not realised till too late the state to which the infant had been reduced. An earlier application to charitable neighbours or to the parish would no doubt have resulted in the saving of two lives."

I am inclined to think that in the case of one of the two children referred to above by Dr. Arnold, the apathy of the parents was to a great extent responsible for the death of the child. There is no doubt, however, as the Colonial Surgeon points out, that although a certain number of the islanders have acquired too readily the art of begging, the majority are prevented by a certain sense of pride or independence from revealing their domestic circumstances.

Dr. Arnold is a strenuous advocate of open air treatment for tubercle diseases. He has done a vast amount of good by instilling into the minds of the cottagers the imperative necessity of allowing plenty of fresh air into their houses by day and night. An islander until quite recently seldom put a window into the weather side of his cottage. Dr. Arnold's report on the marked decrease in tubercle cases is interesting. He states:—

"No fresh cases of tubercle of the lungs came to my notice during the year. This is a gratifying and somewhat remarkable fact as formerly "consumption" claimed far too many victims, more deaths amongst the population being due to that than to any other disease, and last year there was but a single death from tubercle. Only two cases were admitted to hospital, both having had the disease for some time, and I had knowledge of no more than five or six old cases amongst the outside community. Were every house in St. Helena freely open day and night to the pure breath of the South East trade wind, phthisis as a disease should ere long cease to exist on the Island. It is difficult to persuade people that it is of equal importance that windows should be open at night as well as by day. During the past five years the gospel of the open window has been preached in season and out of season, and there is evidence to show that it has been not altogether uttered to unheeding ears, and the old dread of an open window is being gradually overcome. In most of the houses ventilation was unthought of when they were first designed, and ideal conditions for the entry of air into dwellings are scarcely obtainable. Here and there old pernicious habits will be retained in spite of a spreading enlightenment, and we may therefore expect cases of phthisis to continue to appear on the lists of sickness and mortality in St. Helena. If, however, the present very striking diminution in its prevalence be maintained, there is good ground for congratulation."

The Colony still remains with only one medical practitioner. Fortunately for the community generally, Dr. Arnold has not yet been laid up for a single day.

(C.) Sanitary.

There was nothing of importance to record during the year in connection with sanitary matters. There was only one prosecution for contravention of the Public Health Ordinance. With the exception of coming under suspicion in the matter of the outbreaks of diphtheria and enteric fever, the Jamestown sanitary system worked satisfactorily. The sewer ventilators, which were in a few instances too low, and in harmful proximity to neighbouring windows, were raised to a safer height where necessary. 112 vaccinations were performed, 96·3 per cent. being successful.

The Colonial Surgeon expresses the opinion, in which I fully concur, that the Public Health Ordinance of 1889 requires to be either recast or amended so as to enlarge its scope and embrace many sanitary concerns which it does not touch upon. The application of the Ordinance referred to is confined to Jamestown and the Briars, the remainder of the Island being left without the blessings of sanitary law. On the other hand sanitary laws are useless unless they can be rigidly enforced. To do this means efficient s pervision . The finances of the Colony, however, are not able to stand the cost of such

supervision at present. As regards Jamestown and the Briars, sanitary supervision is exercised by the Inspector of Police in a very satisfactory manner, the salary attached to the post of Sanitary Inspector being £6 per annum.

(D.) CLIMATE.

Hutt's Gate.

The mean pressure for the year was 28·147 inches, being exactly the same as for the previous year. I take it that a barometer is practically useless in the tropics.

Temperature.—The mean temperature was 60·9° against 60·3° for the year 1906. The maximum temperature, 76·0°, was recorded on the 19th and 20th March; the maximum for the previous year was 75·0° on the 20th March and 25th April. The lowest maximum, 65·0°, was registered on the 21st November; the lowest for 1906 being 64·6° on the 12th July.

The absolute minimum was recorded on 27th August—49·9°—compared with 48·5° on 15th September, 1906.

Rainfall.—The total rainfall for 1907 was 44·045 inches, being a decrease of 5·725 inches on the previous year (49·770 having been the total in 1906). The maximum fall was 1·1 inches on 4th August; 1·910 being the maximum in 1906. The number of days on which rain fell was 277, corresponding exactly with the number of the previous year. April was an exceedingly wet month, it having rained every day of the month; the total fall for that month was 8·2 inches, the third heaviest monthly fall recorded since the establishment of the Meteorological Station at Hutt's Gate in 1892. August, strange to report, was about the mildest month of the year. Rain fell only on seventeen days. This remark applies also to "wind" as will be seen from figures under that head.

Wind.—The anemograph worked continuously without a break during the year.

The mean force was 2·4, which is equivalent to 14 miles—being the same rate as in the four previous years. July and August were very calm months, which is quite unusual. August is one of the most windy months of the year—four days of calm were recorded in the same month, which is indeed a very rare occurrence.

The direction for the year under report was:—

Direction.	Days.
S.S.E.	218
S.E.	89
E.S.E.	24
E.N.E.	1
W.S.W.	1
N.N.W.	1
S.	20
Calm	11

Jamestown.

Temperature.

	1906.	1907.
Mean	72·7°	72·8°
Maximum	80·0° on 14th February and 2nd March.	81·0° on 15 March.
Minimum	66·0° on 4th July and 11th August.	65·0° on 14th September.

Rainfall.

	1906.	1907.
Total for year	9·53 ins.	11·50 ins.
No. of rainy days.	112	107
Maximum fall	0·430 ins. on 31st March.	0·710 ins. on 10th April.

April was the wettest montl. with 3·87 inches and 24 days of rain.

Oak Bank.

Rainfall.—50·06 inches on 237 days of rain. The figures for the previous year were 48·5 inches on 228 days. On seven days during the year under review over an inch of rain was recorded, five days of which were in April.

St. Paul's Vicarage.

Rainfall.—39·91 inches on 181 days of rain as against 33·92 inches on 212 days in 1906. Although St. Paul's Vicarage is situated at the same height above the sea as is Oak Bank (1,800 feet), and lies only 1,500 yards (as the crow flies) to the North of Oak Bank, the rainfall recorded at the latter place exceeded that recorded at the Vicarage by over 10 inches. The difference in 1906 was even greater, namely: 14½ inches.

VIII.—POSTAL, TELEGRAPH, AND TELEPHONE SERVICES.

(A.) Postal.

The total revenue from all sources was £558 15*s.* 10*d.*, a decrease of £71 3*s.* 1*d.*, as compared with the previous year. This decrease was almost entirely due to the withdrawal of the garrison, but the raising of the unit of weight during the latter part of the year under review of letters from ½ ounce to 1 ounce to the United Kingdom and British Colonies necessarily caused a decrease in revenue. I do not, however, fancy that the increase of weight from ½ ounce to 1 ounce for 2½*d.* on letters to foreign countries was felt to any appreciable extent.

The expenditure for the year was £328 2*s*. 9*d*., or £34 0*s*. 9*d*. less than in 1906, chiefly due to the reductions of salaries of the Post Office staff.

The following tables give all details of postal matters dealt with during the years 1906 and 1907:—

From the United Kingdom.

—	1907.	1906.
No. of mails from England	14	15
„ „ bags mail from England and Ascension	182	240
„ „ boxes parcel post	188	194
„ „ parcels	1,791	1,771
„ „ registered articles...	408	365
„ „ insured letters	2	1

To the United Kingdom.

—	1907.	1906.
No. of mails to England	18	17
„ „ bags mail to England (and Ascension)...	80	71
„ „ letters (ordinary)...	12,864	20,732
„ „ postcards	6,338	10,886
„ „ other articles	2,246	2,552
„ „ parcels	229	260
„ „ registered articles...	1,311	1,401
„ „ insured letters	nil	nil

From South Africa.

—	1907.	1906.
No. of mails from Cape Colony and Natal ...	13	14
„ „ bags mail	57	58
„ „ parcels	530	208
„ „ registered articles...	441	317
„ „ insured letters	nil	nil

To South Africa.

—	1907.	1906.
No. of mails to Cape Colony and Natal	15	15
„ „ bags mail	73	41
„ „ letters (ordinary)...	13,239	10,282
„ „ postcards	2,136	775
„ „ other articles	2,180	1,716
„ „ parcels	358	142
„ „ registered articles...	182	204
„ „ insured letters	nil	nil

It will be noticed that there is a large decrease as compared with 1906 in the letters and post cards despatched to the United Kingdom, due to the withdrawal of the garrison and continued falling off in calling ships. There was, however, an increase in the mail matter despatched to South Africa, due chiefly to the emigration of a large number of men to the Namaqualand mines. The increase in parcels sent from South Africa is due to the men referred to sending quantities of wearing apparel to their relatives in St. Helena.

Money and Postal Order transactions during the last two years were:—

—	1907.	1906.
	£	£
To United Kingdom ...	3,809	4,954
To South Africa	366	545
From United Kingdom ...	921	678
From South Africa ...	796	678
Totals ... £	5,892	6,855

Commissions on above amounted to £41 8*s.* 9½*d.*, being £3 4*s.* 0½*d.* less than in the previous year.

Owing to there being no longer an Imperial Treasury chest in the Colony the Post Office has at times to remit specie to the General Post Office in London. To cover the expense incurred on freight on such shipments an increased commission was imposed towards the end of the year upon all Money Orders. Postal Orders were not included in this increase.

I would mention that a very convenient arrangement in the accounts connected with Money Orders to and from South Africa was arrived at by including all such transactions in the London returns.

A mail was despatched to the Iisland of Tristan da Cunha by the American whaler "Sunbeam" in September of the year. It is not yet known whether that vessel reached the Island named or not.

Special statistics of all postal matter were taken during November of the new year under review for the purpose of calculating future transit charges in connection with the Postal Union. The information obtained showed a decrease in St. Helena mail matter, and it is to be hoped the Colony's share in transit charges will accordingly be reduced.

(B.) Telegraphs and Telephones.

Telegraphs.—The Eastern Telegraph Company now work with a staff of 30 employees, being 13 less than in 1906.

Telephones.—Owing to the parlous state of the Colony's finances it was found necessary at the end of January of the year under review to abolish even the limited and inexpensive telephone system maintained by the Colonial Government since the 1st November, 1906. What the abolition of the system meant to a large part of the community, and especially to the Government, can only be understood by persons who have lived in St. Helena and who have experienced the difficulty of communication in a place possessing the Island's peculiar topographical features. The absence of telephonic communication would be especially a serious inconvenience in the common event of the doctor's services being urgently required. It is imperative, too, that the Colonial Surgeon should be able to communicate at once with the hospital when necessary. It must be remembered that St. Helena possesses only one doctor. It goes without saying that it was necessary to establish a system that would at least meet the contingencies above referred to and at the same time allow the trading houses in Jamestown to be in touch with the country, and further to establish communication between Government House and the Castle in Jamestown. The difficulty was met by a few Government officials and residents, including the Eastern Telegraph Company's mess, deciding to maintain a limited system. The War Office very kindly came to the assistance of the persons concerned by handing over to them free of charge all stores other than certain instruments, which were loaned. The action of the War Office was greatly appreciated, and enabled the new system to be run most successfully during the year under review. Two public stations are maintained, one in Jamestown and one in the country. The operators in these stations receive a starvation wage, but are housed rent free, which is a consideration in these hard times.

(C.) Signal Stations.

Since the troops were withdrawn from the Colony in October, 1906, only one signal station, that at Ladder Hill, has been maintained. The salary (£66) of the signalman is paid by Lloyd's.

IX.—GENERAL OBSERVATIONS.

(A.) Roads.

The finances of the Colony would not allow of any expenditure being incurred on the country roads during the year under review. The Imperial Treasury, however, came to the Colony's assistance by granting a sum of £300 early in the year for "relief works." This amount was almost entirely spent in putting the most important rural roads into fair order. Had

the grant not been forthcoming the state of the roads to-day would have been such as to seriously handicap phormium growers from delivering leaves at the mill. The rains in March and April were unusually severe. It is during the heavy summer rains from February to April that the greatest damage is caused to the roads. The steep gradients of nearly all the roads, making it necessary for wheeled transport to use shoes, thus cutting up the surface unduly, accounts for the abnormal damage caused by heavy rain. The Treasury grant not only saved the roads but was the means of furnishing employment to a large number of men at a time when the depression among the poorer classes was at its worst. The only road in the Island that it has been possible to keep in regular repair is that from Red Hill to Jamestown. This road is in excellent order.

Fifty-nine pounds was expended during the year in repairs to the streets of, and approaches to, Jamestown.

(B.) Land Grants and General Value of Land.

The Commissioners of Crown Property approved of two transfers of properties in the General Register during the year under review. During the same period there were five grants of land, amounting to a total of 6 acres. All of these grants were under special conditions with a view of encouraging flax cultivation by cottagers. Free rent was granted up to 31st March, 1911, after which date rent at the rate of 5*s.* an acre per year will be charged.

The value of land continued to fall. To give a few instances: a property belonging to the Widows' and Orphans' Fund which up to 1906 rented for £30 a year now brings in £22 annually. The leases of two Colonial Government properties (grass lands) expired during the year, and the highest tenders resulted in a total annual rental of £78, being a fall of £32 on the former rents.

The rents for the year amounted to £799 3*s.* 10*d.*, as against £858 6*s.* 8*d.* in 1906. Rents throughout the Colony are falling in keeping with the fall in the value of land. This fall may, however, soon be converted into a rise should the prospects of the flax industry continue to be favourable.

(C.) Rate of Wages and Cost of Living.

The rate of wages fell generally in keeping with the depression existing in all circles. During the early months of the year the state of the labour market reached an acute stage and caused great anxiety. The departure of 100 men to the Port Nolloth mines in May greatly relieved the situation. Ninety-eight of these men allotted their families in St. Helena from 20*s.* to 30*s.* a month out of their wages, which allotments are paid locally on the first of each month. By this means about 500 women and children receive a small livelihood. These allotments must amount to at least £120 a month.

The cost of living was certainly much lower than for many years past. This especially applied to meat, potatoes, and green vegetables. The price of rice, however, which with fish is the chief diet of the poorer classes, rose towards the end of the year to 2*d.* a pound—an increase of about 20 per cent. compared to the price early in the year. This rise is naturally felt by the community concerned. As I stated in my last report, the people who suffer most in these hard times are those in the Jamestown and Half-Tree-Hollow districts. The 100 men who proceeded to Port Nolloth were chiefly drawn from those two districts. The exodus of these men was a veritable godsend to the Colony, and proved a regular safety-valve at a critical period.

(D.) Departments and Institutions.

Of departments not already dealt with the Public Works Department is the only one requiring passing notice in this report. The expenditure of this Department for the year was £1,233, being £672 less than in the previous year. Rigid economy was exercised under every sub-head. On the 1st January, 1907, the wages of all Government employés were reduced by from 33 to 20 per cent. Several men who had been in regular Government employment had to be discharged. The spirit in which the reduction of wages was accepted was most praiseworthy. The men concerned were consoled to some extent in the knowledge that all Government permanent officials, including the Governor, had suffered in like manner, thus showing that the reductions made were of imperative necessity. The general feeling existing among Government employés is that prosperity may yet return to St. Helena and that the low wage now earned will prove to be but a temporary inconvenience. The expenditure provided for in the annual estimate would not allow of anything more than ordinary repairs being attended to. No special works could be undertaken. As usual, the flushing dam at the head of Jamestown suffered considerable damage from the heavy summer rains. These defects had to be at once attended to. Some much-needed repairs were effected to the sea wall in Jamestown, the cost thereof being met out of the £300 Treasury grant referred to under "Roads" above. The masons employed in the work were paid 2*s.* a day or 50 per cent. lower than the usual wage earned by that class. During the year under review the water system cost £199 to maintain, being £44 less than in the previous year. The following were the figures under the most important sub-heads for 1907, as compared with 1906:

	1907.	1906.
	£	£
Buildings	394	610
Scavenging, Jamestown ...	111	191
Forests	139	239
Telephones	15	80

A large quantity of old lead piping and other metal, the accumulation of many years, was collected and sent to England. The sale thereof, after deducting cost of freight and all charges, resulted in a net profit to the Colony of £334 odd. A ship's iron cable, which had lain on the wharf for a long period, was shipped to England and realized a net profit of £33.

Timber, stores, &c., were sold to the public by the Public Works Department during the year to the amount of £285, £120 of which was paid by the Flax Department in the purchase of material for the erection of the mill.

The following tables give the revenue and expenditure of the Poor Board and Public Market during the year under review and for the four years previous:—

Poor Board.

Year.	Revenue.	Expenditure.
	£	£
1903	829	821
1904	872	855
1905	881	881
1906	857	900
1907	799	798

Public Market.

Year.	Revenue.	Expenditure.
	£	£
1903	124	194
1904	325	208
1905	144	250
1906	102	117
1907	80	85

An honest endeavour was at last made by the Market Committee to cut down working expenses and to run things generally on sounder lines. Owing to the depression prevailing in the Colony during 1907, that year was necessarily an unfavourable one for the Market. The Committee succeeded during the last quarter of the year in cutting down monthly expenses by about 35 per cent. This will allow of the deficit being wiped out at an early date. The difficulty in collecting fish dues was met by leasing the fish market to the fishermen at a small rent, the tenants being responsible for repairs. This arrangement does away with fish dues and is a satisfactory one to both parties, especially to the fishermen in these hard times.

(E.) Miscellaneous.

I have already in this report referred on several occasions to the serious depression which existed throughout the Colony during the year under review, more especially during the first six months of the year. There would appear to be no question but that the genuine distress among the labouring classes was greater during 1907 than at any other time in the history of the Colony, or, at all events, than in any year since the East India Company gave up possession of the Island. Both the social and financial aspect of 1907 were alike most discouraging and caused the gravest anxiety at times. Until the last quarter of the year work was almost unobtainable, and many families were in a state bordering on semi-starvation. There are unfortunately in St. Helena a large number of single women with families. These women, with no bread-winner in the family, were particularly hard hit. Allowing that they have only themselves to thank for the condition in which they find themselves does not prevent one's sympathy going out to the children in their miserable plight. It would serve no useful purpose for me to further dwell in this report on what must always remain a gloomy experience. I would, however, record my admiration at the almost exemplary manner in which the Islanders behaved during a time of severe hardship. There was no serious crime, and in three Quarter Sessions out of four, in my position as Chief Justice, I received a pair of white kid gloves from the Sheriff, there being no criminal cases to come before the Court.

1907 was a year of "experts" as far as St. Helena was concerned. Early in the year Mr. Herdsman visited the Colony and went thoroughly into the question of the manganese deposits. His report thereon was most unfavourable, making it clear that no benefits were to be derived in that direction. That gentleman, however, pronounced very favourably on extensive deposits of phosphate (old guano) lying on the eastern side of the Island. The hopes raised by Mr. Herdsman were doomed to disappointment, as the deposits referred to were at a later date reported on by an expert in such matters (Mr. Cannon), sent out by Messrs. James Morrison and Company, as not being worth working. The Island was then visited by two flax experts, Messrs. Fulton and Hall, both from New Zealand. Mr. Fulton remained some months in the Colony and left in January, 1908. Mr. Hall, however, remains in charge of the Government flax mill for some time longer. Mr. F. L. McDougall paid a month's visit to the Colony towards the end of the year in connection with the cultivation of the black wattle, sowing several experimental seed plots. The sixth expert to visit the Colony was Miss Penderel Moody, whose services were engaged to establish the lace-making industry in the Island. Miss Moody remains in St. Helena until the end of March, 1908, when it has fortunately been arranged that another expert shall carry on the good work begun by her.

It will, therefore, be seen that not a little was done in the year under review to exploit the resources of the Colony in every possible direction.

The St. Helena Committee in London continued their good work in St. Helena's cause.

References I made in my report on the Colony for 1906 in connection with honours conferred upon Colonial Government officials during that year were inadvertently omitted when the report was printed, so I take this opportunity of again recording the honours won by Mr. J. Homagee and Coxswain R. Francis.

His Majesty the King was graciously pleased to create Mr. Homagee a Companion of the Imperial Service Order in 1906. Mr. Homagee joined the St. Helena Government service in 1859 and has served continuously since that year. He holds several posts under the Colonial Government, namely: Collector of Customs, Police Magistrate and Small Debts Court Judge, Crown Prosecutor and Clerk of the Peace, and Manager of the Savings Bank.

Robert Francis, Coxswain of the Harbour Boat, was awarded the Imperial Service Medal on his retirement on pension at the end of 1906 after forty-six years' good and faithful service. Besides being a man of exemplary character, Francis possesses personal courage of a high order. During his service he rescued many fishermen who had been carried out to sea during rough weather. On one notable occasion he performed gallant service in navigating, during very heavy weather, a distressed vessel into port, the crew of which vessel had struck work.

During the year under review a gallant act was performed by Harbour Boatman H. O'Neil and Police Constable E. J. Fagan in rescuing an old woman who fell into the Run at the top of Jamestown, and who was carried by the rush of water out to sea. The Royal Humane Society has lately awarded both men certificates on vellum in recognition of their brave conduct.

Mr. E. H. M. Drury, Chief Clerk in the Governor's Office, after four years' service under the Colonial Government, was transferred to the Bechuanaland Protectorate in January of the year under review. He was succeeded in office by Mr. A. Hands, 2nd Clerk; the latter office being abolished under the retrenchment scheme.

Now that St. Helena is no longer a port of call for shipping, excepting for a few stray vessels, the Island's future prosperity depends chiefly upon the development of the phormium industry. The success of such industry is greatly handicapped owing to the violent fluctuations that are constantly occurring in the price of fibre on the London market. The Colonial Government can never hope to make more than a very small profit over its mill so long as fibre remains under £30 a ton. Should the price go below, say, £20, it is doubtful whether any

profit could be made. The great object, however, is that the industry should benefit the community generally, and so long as this can be done, and the mill run at a bare profit, all will be well. It was never anticipated that the Colonial Government would make a "good thing" out of the industry. A fair price must be paid for leaves. Owing to the abnormal difficulties of transport in St. Helena it would not pay the majority of land owners to supply leaves at under, say, 20*s.* a ton. There are a few owners whose plantations are not very far from the mill, who could well supply at a lower rate, but their stock of leaves would soon become exhausted if they were called upon to contribute the mill's full requirements for a long period. It is to be hoped, however, that the price of fibre will not fall further in the near future and so allow of a good start being made in an industry which is capable of conferring great benefits on a stricken community. I am inclined to think that in four years' time there will be sufficient mature flax available to keep at least three mills running. On the other hand I consider it would be bad policy for any one to start a mill at the present time in competition with the Government mill unless he was sure there were sufficient leaves available for a second mill during the period required for the late plantings to mature. I do not anticipate that another mill is likely to be established yet awhile.

Provided that the price of fibre does not fall to any further great extent, and so allow the mill to continue running at a small profit, the withdrawal of the garrison will have contributed in no small degree to some prosperity returning to the Colony. It was the withdrawal of the small garrison that called attention to St. Helena's condition and which led to a practical effort being made to establish an industry in the Island. Thanks to the financial aid rendered by the Imperial Government, and the assistance afforded by the New Zealand Government, the phormium industry is now a going concern with most encouraging prospects. I contend more than ever that St. Helena is capable of progress provided landowners will act in unison, and not for their own interests alone, in doing all they can to co-operate with the Government in furthering the success of the new industry. Industries, however, cannot flourish unless accompanied by industry. Now, the average St. Helenian, more especially the town man, is not industrious in the proper sense of that term. His wants are small and the genial climate tends to make him take things easy and to live only for the present. A large number of the Islanders have in the past year learnt to know what it is to be "in want." They do not, however, know what it is to suffer from frost and cold. Fires in St. Helena are only required, except as a luxury, for cooking purposes. Consequently the poor in times of distress do not suffer in St. Helena to anything like the extent experienced by the poor in a climate like England, for instance. Further, every St. Helenian has a roof over his head, although

a very leaky one in many cases. These facts, in my opinion, account to a great extent for the non-industrious nature of the Islanders as a whole. Possibly the rising generation, being better educated, may prove more industrious than their forbears. Let us hope so at all events. The two attributes, industry and education, do not necessarily go together, but education fosters intelligence, and the more intelligent a community is the better able are its members to recognize the necessity of helping themselves rather than trusting too much to extraneous assistance.

The economic situation in St. Helena to-day shows a marked improvement on what it was a year ago. Things generally are much brighter. I would hazard the opinion that the Island has turned the corner. It depends, however, chiefly upon the Islanders themselves whether there is to be any going back or not.

In closing this report I wish to record my thanks to all my officials for the manner in which they have supported me in the administration of the Government during an unusually difficult period in the Colony's history.

H. L. GALLWEY,

Governor and
Commander-in-Chief.

The Castle,

St. Helena,

13th March, 1908.

Sketch Map of St. Helena.

indicating the

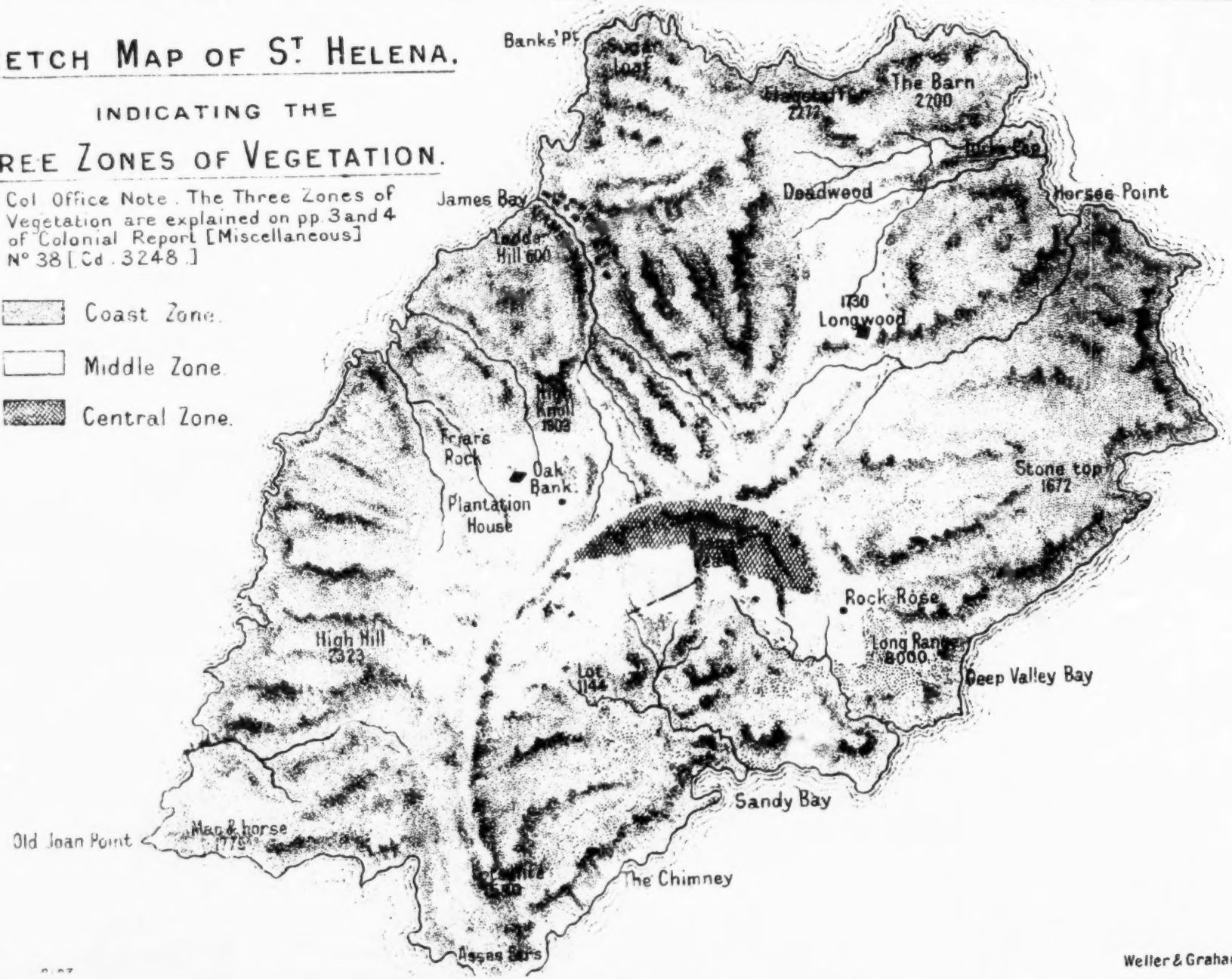
Three Zones of Vegetation.

Col Office Note. The Three Zones of Vegetation are explained on pp. 3 and 4 of Colonial Report [Miscellaneous] N° 38 [Cd. 3248.]

Coast Zone.

Middle Zone.

Central Zone.



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ANNUAL.

No.	Colony.	Year.
527	Ceylon	1906
528	Bermuda	,,
529	Gibraltar	,,
530	Northern Territories of the Gold Coast	,,
531	Sierra Leone	,,
532	Colonial Survey Committee	1906–1907
533	Weihaiwei	1906
534	Gold Coast	,,
535	Malta	1906–1907
536	Gambia	1906
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538	Bechuanaland Protectorate	,,
539	Leeward Islands	,,
540	Straits Settlements	1906
541	Turks and Caicos Islands	,,
542	Somaliland Protectorate	1906–1907
543	Bahamas...	,,
544	Barbados	,,
545	Trinidad and Tobago	,,
546	Grenada	,,
547	Mauritius	1906
548	Fiji	,,
549	Jamaica	1906–1907
550	British Guiana	,,
551	Northern Nigeria	,,
552	British Honduras	1906
553	St. Lucia...	1906–1907
554	Southern Nigeria	1906
555	St. Vincent	1906–1907
556	Basutoland	,,
557	East Africa Protectorate	,,
558	Uganda Protectorate	,,
559	Swaziland	,,

MISCELLANEOUS.

No.	Colony.	Subject.
44	East Africa Protectorate ...	Survey Department.
45	Do do. ...	Geology.
46	Northern Nigeria	Mineral Survey (1904–5).
47	Do. do	Do. (1905–6).
48	Nyasaland Protectorate ...	Do.
49	East Africa Protectorate ...	Veterinary Department.
50	British Colonies, &c.	Cotton cultivation.
51	Southern Nigeria	Forest Administration.

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No. 597.

ST. HELENA.

REPORT FOR 1908.

(For Report for 1907, *see* No. 560.)

Presented to both Houses of Parliament by Command of His Majesty

May, 1909.

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No. 597.

ST. HELENA.

(For Report for 1907, *see* No. 560.)

THE GOVERNOR TO THE SECRETARY OF STATE.

The Castle,
St. Helena,
9th March, 1909.

MY LORD,

I HAVE the honour to transmit herewith the Colony's Blue Book, together with my Annual Report thereon, for the year 1908.

I have, &c.,

H. L. GALLWEY,
Governor and
Commander-in-Chief.

The Right Honourable,
The Earl of Crewe, K.G.,
&c., &c., &c.

13228—2.) Wt. 26122—322. 1125. 6/09. D & S. A 2

ANNUAL REPORT FOR THE YEAR 1908.

I.—FINANCIAL.

(A.) Revenue.

The revenue for the year under review reached a total of £7,432 1*s.* 5*d.*, being £866 18*s.* 5*d.* in excess of the estimate and an increase of £224 12*s.* 9*d.* over the revenue of 1907. The increase over the estimate was caused almost entirely by the issue of four new values of stamps and the consequent demand for same from stamp collectors in the United Kingdom and elsewhere. No less than £776 resulted from this source. Other causes accounting for the increase of revenue over the estimate were an additional liquor shop being opened; and by the sale of certain stock to cover withdrawals from the savings bank being delayed until 1909, thereby giving the Colony a larger amount in dividends than was anticipated. Against the above increases there were short-falls under four heads amounting in all to £83 5*s.* 1*d.*

The revenue was £672 16*s.* 2*d.* less than the expenditure, being £176 15*s.* 7*d.* less than the corresponding deficit in the previous year.

Apart from the revenue was the sum of £379 14*s.* 3*d.* received from Jamestown householders of monies (including interest) advanced to them under the Drainage and Water Works Ordinances. The amount recovered was about 45 per cent. of the total due, and was £50 in excess of the sum recovered in the previous year. On the 31st December, 1908, the sum of £3,759 13*s.* 6*d.* still remained due from householders.

(B.) Expenditure.

The expenditure for the year amounted to £8,104 17*s.* 7*d.*, being a net sum of £30 4*s.* 8*d.* in excess of the estimates, and £47 17*s.* 2*d.* more than the expenditure in the previous year.

The principal excesses over the estimates were: Customs, £84—due to the refund of wharfage on coal supplied to a larger number of His Majesty's ships than usual. £318 was paid in this service. Medical, £42—caused by a larger number of patients being admitted to the Hospital than was anticipated, which caused an increase under Provisions, &c. More than this sum was received in hospital fees over and above the amount estimated. The majority of the departments showed small savings, which, however, call for no particular comment.

(C.) Assets and Liabilities.

The assets of the Colony on the 31st December, 1908, amounted to £23,904 14*s.* 10*d.* Included in this sum is £18,991 4*s.* 3*d.* Savings Bank Stock (cost price) and £3,759 13*s.* 6*d.* due from

Jamestown householders under the Drainage and Water Works Ordinances. I fear that a considerable part of this latter sum will never be recovered. The Colony's liabilities on the same date amounted to £23,081 10*s.* 2*d.*, including an overdraft with the Crown Agents for the Colonies of £5,422 0*s.* 9*d.* This overdraft would under ordinary circumstances have been £600 less, but the sale of stock to that amount to cover withdrawals from the Savings Bank was not effected during the year under review. Among the liabilities was the sum of £17,532 15*s.* due to depositors in the Savings Bank.

The surplus of assets over liabilities on the last day of the year under review amounted to £823 4*s.* 8*d.*, being £360 10*s.* 7*d.* less than on the same date of the previous year.

(D.) Grants.

Expenditure under Parliamentary and Treasury Grants during the year was as follows:—

	£	*s*	*d.*
Fibre industry	1,535	19	9
Lace industry (approximate) ...	200	0	0
Longwood water main	1,419	14	6
Maintenance of roads	360	0	0
Total	£3,515	14	3

The total sum spent under Imperial grants since the withdrawal of the garrison until the 31st December, 1908, amounted to £7,472 8*s.* 6*d.*

I have no hesitation in stating that the improvement in the economic situation in St. Helena to-day is greatly due to the practical and sympathetic manner in which His Majesty's Government has come to the Colony's rescue. The financial assistance so generously given has alone saved the *débâcle* of one of the Crown's oldest possessions. Without that assistance the situation in St. Helena to-day would have been little short of desperate.

(E.) Currency.

The cash circulation at the beginning of the year under review was about £5,000. It is now probably nearer £8,000, thanks chiefly to the large disbursements made by the Colonial Government Flax Mill.

Bills on the Crown Agents for the Colonies to the amount of £6,314 15*s.* 10*d.* were issued during the year, being slightly more than in 1907, when the amount was £6,146 16*s.* 6*d.* The amount given does not include monies drawn by the Flax Mill for the last nine months of the year. Since the 1st April, 1908, that institution has had a separate account with the Crown Agents, and issues bills on those Agents quite distinct from Colonial Government Bills. The amount in bills drawn by the

Mill management during the nine months ending 31st December, 1908, was £2,055.

£2,100 specie was exported during the year under review and £500 imported, showing a £1,600 excess on the export side. The excess in 1907 was almost the same, namely, £1,667.

Apart from remittances by means of bills and specie, the public remitted £3,568 to the United Kingdom and £487 to South Africa through the Post Office during the year under review, as compared with £3,809 and £365 respectively in 1907.

II.—TRADE, AGRICULTURE, AND INDUSTRIES.

(A.) Trade.

Revenue.

The Customs revenue for the year amounted to £3,430, being £130 in excess of that of 1907 and an increase over the revised estimate of £330, due to the fact that a sailing vessel with coal and other cargo, which was not expected to arrive until early in 1909, arrived during the last week of the year under review.

The increase appeared chiefly under two heads, namely:—

"Wharfage," £77.—Due to a large shipment of grain and flour arriving at the close of the year.

"Import Duties," £150.—Indirectly caused by the increase in the cash circulation following the establishment of the Government flax mill and by the visits of the Second Cruiser Squadron and several other of His Majesty's ships during the year.

There was a decrease of £68 under "Tonnage Dues." This was due to the coal vessel referred to above not paying the tonnage dues until after the 31st December, 1908. These dues amounted to £79, and had they been paid before the date named there would have been a slight increase over the figures of the previous year instead of the decrease shown above.

There was a decrease of £31 under "Water." Due chiefly to the reduced price thereof (2*s.* per tun) which came into force in July, 1907.

Expenditure.

The expenditure for the year amounted to £733, being £100 in excess of the previous year. This excess was mainly due to the large amount of coal supplied to His Majesty's ships, on which the naval contractors obtained a refund of wharfage. The amount refunded was £318, as against £233 in 1907.

Imports.

The total value of imports showed an increase of £602 over the previous year, the figures being £36,216 and £35,614 respectively.

The following figures give the principal imports for the year under review as compared with 1907:—

Articles.	1908. £	1907. £
Beef and pork	544	1,162
Beer	557	644
Butter	2,012	1,454
Cigars, cigarettes, and tobacco ...	791	820
Chemicals, drugs, &c.	358	508
Coal and patent fuel...	2,860	3,332
Drapery and dry goods	4,423	3,312
Flour	3,163	1,930
Grain, seed, and oil cake	2,435	1,617
Hardware, metals, &c.	1,583	684
Leather, boots, &c.	850	790
Machinery	252	1,217
Oil, paraffin	992	670
Oilman's stores	6,578	6,692
Rice	1,960	2,333
Specie	500	1,250
Spirits	835	775
Stationery	495	494
Sugar	2,035	2,171
Sundries	408	725
Tea	607	556
Wine	849	515

Exports.

The total value of exports amounted to £6,685, being an increase of £1,981 over the previous year. Excluding specie, the increase for 1908 over 1907 amounted to £2,798.

The year under review is of particular interest in that it was the first year in which the fibre industry really affected the exports. Fibre and tow to the value of £3,557 was exported during the year. This amount (with the exception of £257) being the value of output from the Government Mill. The £257 referred to represents the value of produce exported by a small private mill. The total weight of phormium produce exported was 128 tons fibre and 41 tons tow, of which 111 tons and 33 tons respectively came from the Government Mill.

155 sheep were exported to Ascension during the year under review, valued at £310. The total value of cattle and sheep exported amounted to £348, as against £50 in the previous year. The value of other exports was:—

	1908. £	1907. £
Hides and skins	136	90
Old metal	227	1,173
Specie	2,100	2,917
Wool	205	315

Against the export of £2,100 in specie was an import of the same article of £500.

(B.) Agriculture, Forests, and Gardens.

The year 1908 was not a very satisfactory one for agriculture. The first crops of the year were almost a total failure owing to scarcity of rain during the months of March and April. The year under review was the worst season for potatoes for many years. In many cases, early in the year, the seed was entirely lost, which placed farmers in a difficult position for their next crop. No seed could be bought locally, and owing to the time of year none could be obtained from England. The Colonial Government came to the aid of the farmers later on in the year by offering to import seed, but scarcity of funds and the low price obtainable for prime potatoes prevented many planters from taking advantage of the offer. Prices for potatoes ruled higher at the Cape than for many years past, but unfortunately, owing to failing crops, St. Helena farmers were unable to reap the benefit. Mealies did badly except in the most favoured localities. Grain and roots were an average crop. The supply of dairy produce during the year was equal to the demand. Only a small quantity of hay was made—the demand being small and the lands suitable for hay-making being in most instances overstocked. Cattle were not in good condition owing to most of the lands being overstocked. Many calves were destroyed at birth—a pitiable fact, but a necessary course to take. Negotiations with the naval authorities, lasting for over a year, to dispose of 200 head of cattle for the use of His Majesty's ships on the Cape Station ended in a negative result in spite of the joint efforts of Vice-Admiral Sir Edmund Poë, K.C.B., K.C.V.O., R.N., and the Colonial Government to bring the matter to a satisfactory conclusion. The Cape Colony Government most generously consented to remit the import duty of 30*s.* a head on the cattle referred to, but even with that concession the price of the meat worked out at a figure in excess of that paid under contract by the naval authorities at Simonstown. The rate of freight on live stock charged by the Steamship Company for a voyage of six days was the chief cause that prevented the farmers from getting rid of the cattle referred to. Sheep did well during the year, with a good lambing season. Sheep owners entered into a contract to supply the naval establishment at Ascension with at least 30 sheep a month. The supply had been carried out for about five months when a telegram was received from Ascension at the end of December stopping the January shipment. It appears that disease had appeared among the sheep in that Island. The stoppage of shipments was only very temporary. There is no doubt that the Admiralty have found a cheap market in St. Helena. I am inclined to think that the price for mutton charged by St. Helena farmers is about one-third the price paid by the Admiralty for sheep imported into Ascension from England. All the animals sent to Ascension leave the Colony sound. They are passed before shipment by the Admiralty Inspector. Further, disease among Island-bred sheep is practically unknown in St. Helena.

The benefits derived by donkey owners from the "Stallion Donkeys Ordinance, 1905," are now very apparent. This fact is

universally recognised throughout the Colony. A far superior breed of donkey has resulted, and mares can now bring up their foals in peace instead of being continually chased by stallions as in times gone by, when every year had its roll of mares killed by falling over the rocks in their endeavours to escape from their pursuers. It is a noteworthy fact there are only about twelve stallion donkeys of over two years old in St. Helena to-day. Nine of these are certificated for breeding purposes, and three are licensed. These latter are kept under control, and are not allowed to roam about as in days of yore. Four years ago the number of stallions was about four hundred, and the greater majority of those were under no control. In addition to the Spanish donkey stallion, the Colonial Government has two certificated stallions, whose services are at the disposal of donkey owners free of charge. During the last two years three or four mules have been bred from horse mares by the Spanish jack. These are the first mules ever bred in the Colony. Mules are preferable to horses for draught purposes in a hilly country like St. Helena. It is to be hoped, therefore, that the Spanish donkey may be the sire of many more mules, which animals will become more valuable as the fibre industry develops.

About 1,000 young trees were issued during the year under review from the Plantation Nursery—half of which went to the general public free of cost, the remainder being planted out on Government lands. Tree planting on unfenced lands in St. Helena is a thankless task. The Islanders generally appear to take no interest in the matter. I do not, of course, refer to landowners who plant trees on their own estates. I refer to the cottagers who do not consider it any affair of theirs if they see young trees being devoured by the numerous goats that roam over Government waste lands. Successful tree planting on waste lands in St. Helena can never be attempted until the Government is in a position to get rid of every goat in the Island. The abnormal deforestation which has taken place in St. Helena during the last three hundred years is entirely due to the ravages of that unpleasant and voracious quadruped, the goat. It is the Colonial Government's impoverished condition only that has prevented me from strongly urging the introduction of legislation by which every goat in the Island would be exterminated and the importation of that animal rigidly prohibited. A privilege too long granted is generally abused by an easy-going community, and such privilege in time is looked upon as a right, although not legally one, the withdrawal of which would be considered a gross piece of injustice. This fact applies to the roaming of large flocks of goats over Government waste lands in St. Helena to-day. With the exception of a few wild goats on the Barn, all these animals are owned. If therefore an order went forth for the slaughter of all goats it would be only reasonable to grant owners some compensation for the loss of their animals. I am convinced that once the goats were eliminated from St. Helena, it would be found quite easy to plant most of the waste lands, which are now such eye-sores, with willow and other hardy trees. Where trees once grew they will grow again, and I agree with the opinion of the leading land-

owners in St. Helena in 1810 that "the temporary inconvenience of a few ought not to be an obstacle to the permanent interests of the Island." The landowners referred to unsuccessfully urged the destruction of all goats. In the year 1502, when the Island was first discovered, its interior was described as one entire forest, and even some of the cliffs overhanging the sea were said to be covered with gumwood trees. The Portuguese, unfortunately, introduced goats into the Island in 1513, and in 1588 Captain Cavendish relates that there were thousands, and they were seen one or two hundred together, and sometimes in a flock almost a mile long." The early explorers of St. Helena refer to "huge forests"—few vestiges of which are now to be seen, thanks to the goats.

The sale of trees from Government forests during the year under review amounted to £13 1*s.*, and the sale of fruit from Maldivia Garden realised £22 4*s.* 5½*d.* The figures in the previous year were £10 12*s.* 6*d.* and £11 8*s.* 7*d.* respectively.

A revenue of £74 0*s.* 2*d.* was collected during the year in connection with the Government pasture lands at Botley's Lay, against an expenditure of £72 12*s.* 7*d.*

(C.) Industries.

Phormium.—Putting aside the unfortunately low price of fibre which prevailed in the London market throughout the whole of the year under review, the first year's working of the Government Flax Mill can be pronounced as a decided success. A brief report by the mill manager, Mr. A. W. Hall, on the mill's working for the year forms an Appendix (marked A) to this Report. I take this opportunity of recording in a public document my appreciation of the services rendered by Mr. Hall in connection with the establishment of the flax industry in St. Helena. With the exception of the first four weeks, Mr. Hall has been in charge of the mill from the start, and I am glad to think that his services are available for some months longer. His management has been both energetic and capable, and he has taken the most prominent part in establishing in the Island an industry which is going materially to contribute towards regaining for St. Helena some of her lost prosperity.

The following details give in brief the results of the mill's working for the first twelve months of its existence, ending on the 30th November, 1908:—

Realised by sale of fibre and tow (net) ...	£3,090	
Expenditure	£2,845	
Leaves milled	1,056½	tons.
Fibre produced	119½	,,
Tow ,, ...	36	,,

The year's transaction showed a profit of £245 of revenue over expenditure. This, I consider, was a creditable result to the management, looking at the abnormally low price of fibre obtainable during the whole of the period under review. For the first

four months of that period the working expenses of the mill were paid out of the Parliamentary grant allotted to the Colony to establish the industry. This generous concession on the part of His Majesty's Government gave the mill a capital of £885 (being the working expenses for the first four months) on which to start business on its own account on the 1st April, 1908. The sum named, added to the year's profit, resulted in the mill's capital amounting to £1,100 odd after a year's work. These funds will allow the mill to be considerably extended in a couple of years' time in order to be able to deal with the large amount of leaves which growers will wish to supply to that establishment when the new plantings are ready to reap. It will not only be necessary to double the capacity of the present buildings, but it will necessitate the existing plant being largely added to. Further, the possession of a fair capital will allow the management to view with equanimity the shutting-down of the mill for a few months when the existing supply of mature leaves is exhausted, and pending the maturing of the new growths.

The chief items of the mill's expenditure of £2,845 were: Wages, £794; freight, lighterage, and cartage, £391; oil, £162; and leaves, £1,380. The amount under wages includes the salary of the local manager, Mr. Hall's salary being paid by the Imperial Government.

The price paid for leaves during the first four months of the year was at the rate of 30*s.* a ton. This was found to be far more than would allow the mill to be run at a profit, and so, as soon as the mill started on its own, a price was fixed in accordance with the price of fibre in the London market. This price was at the rate of 5 per cent. on the price of fibre. Thus 30*s.* a ton would be paid for leaves when the price of fibre was £30 a ton. This arrangement worked out very well, and was accepted as reasonable by all parties.

The Union-Castle Steamship Company kindly consented to carry the first 60 tons (measurement) of produce to England freight free. This concession went a long way towards making up for the loss occasioned by paying an excessive price for leaves for the first four months.

The amount of oil consumed during the period named was 5,747 gallons fuel oil, and 176¼ gallons lubricating oil. The Colonial Government was fortunate in taking over 9,000 gallons or so of fuel oil from the Imperial Government in St. Helena at a cost of 6*d.* per gallon, the transport of which to the mill adds another penny to that cost. When the supply named is exhausted I fear that it will not be possible to import a suitable oil at less than 1*s.* 2*d.* or 1*s.* 3*d.* a gallon.

As I anticipated, the fact of St. Helena being without a certificated grader affected the price obtainable for the fibre in the London market. The first shipment, a very small one, consisting of three tons of fibre, had the advantage of being graded by Mr. Fulton and was naturally accepted in the market at the grade given. This fibre fetched £27 10*s.* per ton. The second shipment of nearly 11 tons was ungraded (Mr. Fulton having left the Island in the same steamer that took away the first lot),

and realised £25 10*s.* per ton. The market price had fallen over £1 since the first shipment was sold. There was, however, a cry that the second shipment was inferior to the first, especially as regards strength. This contention was not accepted as correct by my Mill Manager, and equal care had been taken as with the first shipment to produce a good article. I agreed with Mr. Hall in putting down the cry of inferiority chiefly to certain buyers taking advantage of the Colony not being in a position to grade its fibre before shipment. This view of the situation appeared to be fairly correct as far as the comparison between the two shipments was concerned. Samples of each shipment were sent to the Imperial Institute to be thoroughly analysed and compared with each other and with a standard sample of New Zealand fibre. Professor Dunstan reported as follows:—

First shipment.—Description: "Well-cleaned, soft fibre; fairly even diameter; light brown colour, but green in parts; fairly good lustre." Strength: "Good." Length of staple: "Six to nine feet." Remarks: "The strength of this sample was less than that of a standard sample of *Phormium tenax* from New Zealand; taking the strength of the latter as 100, the strength of the St. Helena fibre would be represented by 75."

Second shipment.—Description: "Well-cleaned, soft fibre; light brown colour, but green in parts; lustre good on the whole." Strength: "Good." Length of staple: "Nine feet." Remarks: "This fibre resembles the first shipment in chemical composition and behaviour, both consignments of fibre being very similar to the Phormium fibre grown in New Zealand. The fibre of the second shipment was a little stronger than the first, though weaker than a standard sample of New Zealand hemp; representing the strength of the last named by the figure 100, the strength of the first shipment would be 75, and that of the second 80."

Professor Dunstan's analyses not only supported the contention I held regarding the complaint of an inferior article having been sent home, but proved the second shipment to have been, if anything, superior to the first, especially as regards strength, the very quality it was said to be deficient in. These facts show the advantage of selling a graded article as against an ungraded one.

It is most difficult to account for St. Helena fibre being less strong than the New Zealand article. Mr. Hall is quite unable to give the reason. In fact, he is of opinion that there is no material difference between the average strengths of the two articles. It is, of course, possible that "the standard sample of New Zealand hemp" referred to by Professor Dunstan is an unusually superior sample. A fairer test of strength would be to take a chance sample from a New Zealand bale of fibre which was sold alongside the St. Helena article. I do not claim to possess much knowledge in the matter, but if it is a fact that St. Helena phormium is less strong than that grown in New Zealand, I am inclined to think that the former article does not get either the amount of sun, or the same strength of sun's rays, as do the plants in the Dominion. I am led to understand that plenty of

sun is necessary to produce fibre of a strong quality. Now, in St. Helena the sun is not very strong (sunstroke is practically unknown although the Island lies in the tropics) nor are there as many hours of genuine sunlight as you get in England for instance. This fact is very apparent when comparing the harvest seasons in England and St. Helena.

Large areas of land were laid out in flax during the year under review, and it is plain that the farmers pin their faith on the new industry. It is difficult definitely to state the acreage of land under flax to-day, but it cannot be much less than 500 acres, not including the large number of phormium hedges that have existed in the Island for many years.

I consider the progress made in the industry to date to be most encouraging, and I am more certain than ever that flax is going to prove of very much more value to the Island than would be the presence of a small garrison.

When the fibre industry develops to any extent, say in three years' time, it will be imperative for the success of the industry that the Colony has its own grader, and so allow for all the produce exported being graded before shipment. If this is not done it is more than likely that the different mills will send home varying qualities of fibre, and so tend to give the St. Helena article a bad name in the London market.

Aloe.—Nothing was done during the year under review in either the cultivation of the aloe (*Furcræa gigantea*) or in milling the fibre thereof. It is generally recognised that the industry is quite unsuited to a hilly country like St. Helena, where the difficulties of transport are so great. When it is considered that a flax mill requires capable management to make a fair profit with an ever fluctuating market, and looking at the fact that it only takes nine tons of flax leaves to make a ton of fibre, it is easy to understand that only a dead loss would result in turning out an article which takes 40 tons of leaves to produce one ton of fibre, as is the case with the aloe.

Lace-making.—The Association which started the lace-making industry in St. Helena (*vide* my Report on the Colony for 1907, page 16) ceased to exist during the year under review. The Association had great difficulties to contend with, and it was quite plain that such difficulties could not be satisfactorily overcome by a body whose affairs were managed by a committee. Management by a committee has many drawbacks, even if the members thereof are all experts, which they did not claim to be in this instance. Several heads are not necessarily better than one. There was a general consensus of opinion that the only hope of the industry becoming a possible success lay in Government control. Such control came into force on the 1st July of the year under review by the establishment of the Government Lace School in Jamestown. Miss Girdwood, who had succeeded Miss Moody as expert to the late Association in April of the year under review, was appointed Manageress of the School. A brief report by Miss Girdwood on the working of the school for the first six months of its existence forms an Appendix (marked B) to this Report. The progress made during that

period was quite satisfactory, and was entirely due to Miss Girdwood's patient and capable methods of management. There is no doubt that the fact of the school being under Government control has been a most important factor in whatever has been accomplished.

At this early stage the school cannot reasonably be looked to to pay its own way. The Imperial grant and loan allotted to the late Association was exhausted before the Lace School came into being, consequently for the first six months of its existence the school's only revenue consisted of the amount realised by the sale of work and the funds taken over from the late Association.

The revenue for the period named amounted to £312 13*s.* 1*d.*, made up as follows:—

	£	*s.*	*d.*
Taken over from the late Association ...	147	3	5
Sale of work	142	0	8
Donations	21	0	0
Interest (Savings Bank)	2	9	0
Total	£312	13	1

Against this the expenditure amounted to £205 3*s.* 10*d.*, namely:—

	£	*s.*	*d.*
Salaries	74	13	4
Workers' earnings	77	8	6
Materials and incidental	53	2	0
Total	£205	3	10

Putting aside the monies taken over from the late Association, the school's transaction for the six months showed a deficit of £39 14*s.* 2*d.* of revenue under expenditure. Taking the amoun realised by sale of work alone, the expenditure exceeded receipts by £63 3*s.* 2*d.*

It should be remembered that the school at this stage of its existence depends entirely on private orders to keep it going. It must take some time for St. Helena work to gain sufficient character of its own to command a sale in the open market.

The school is greatly indebted to Mrs. Ord Marshall, honorary secretary of the League of the Empire, for the practical and sympathetic interest she continues to take in the industry. The majority of orders from England come through that lady, who in many other ways has been of great assistance to Miss Girdwood. The management is also indebted to Dr. Muir, Superintendent-General of Education, Cape Colony, for the great interest he has taken in the Lace School, and for the efforts he has made to interest the South African public in the school's work. Miss Moody, too, has been most helpful in supporting the school. This lady left the Colony in April of the year under review, after rendering most useful services to the late Association for over nine months. Her place was taken by Miss Girdwood,

whose good services I have already referred to. Miss Girdwood is not only a very competent and painstaking teacher, but she possesses great influence of the right kind over her pupils. I am glad to have this opportunity of placing on record my thanks to Miss Girdwood for work well performed. I exercise personal supervision over the school, but at the same time give the manageress a free hand outside of financial matters. In my efforts to make the school a success I have been most loyally-assisted by Mr. L. Tucker, as honorary secretary, and Mr. G. Liddy, as honorary treasurer. Both these gentlemen give their services gratuitously.

I am very hopeful of the future success of the Government Lace School provided the present management continues. The process must necessarily be slow when dealing with people who are far from being energetic. To attain success it is essential that the workers, and more especially their parents, should look upon the industry as one that can only succeed provided sufficient and regular workers are available to execute punctually all orders received, instead of looking upon the Lace School as a place where money can be earned according as the whim may seize them to work. This latter view is the one taken by many of the parents of the workers, not in many cases by the workers themselves, and can only serve to sadly handicap the rising generation in their efforts to make the industry a success. The ignorance of the parents referred to is really a matter of heredity. They have lived their whole lives in a very confined area, and have had no opportunity of seeing the outside world. The consequence is, having no other standard, they measure themselves by themselves, and compare themselves with themselves. Is it any wonder that their minds should be cramped? The opportunity to expand their ideas has never come to them. The success of the lace industry lies with the better-educated rising generation. In fact, some of the most efficient and intelligent workers in the Lace School are to be found among girls who have not yet left school. The superior intelligence of these girls and their brothers over the older generation is a promising factor in the future history of the Island.

Miscellaneous.—During the year under review I submitted several samples of different products to Professor Dunstan in the hope that they might prove to be of commercial value. The samples which the Director of the Imperial Institute kindly reported on were:—

(1.) Phormium pulp.—An article appeared in a New Zealand newspaper stating that the pulp taken off the phormium leaves during the process of stripping was a valuable product from which an excellent spirit could be produced, which spirit could be used as fuel for driving engines. Professor Dunstan reported unfavourably on the sample sent to him, and further stated that the distillation of alcohol involves a considerable capital expenditure on plant, and that a large consumption of fuel would also be entailed. He was of opinion that "the cost of producing alcohol, even if it were possible to do so, from the pulp would outweigh any possible gain through the use of alcohol instead

of oil for fuel for the engine," and suggested that the most profitable use for the pulp would be to employ it as a fertiliser, and thus return its valuable constituents to the soil. Professor Dunstan also reported unfavourably on the pulp as a paper-making material.

(2.) Lichen.—It was suggested to me that the lichen which freely grows on the trees and rocks in St. Helena would probably be of use as a dyeing material. Professor Dunstan, after analysing the sample submitted to him, stated that no commercial opening could be found for the article.

(3.) Prickly pear.—My attention was drawn to an article which appeared in a Tasmanian newspaper setting forth the number of uses to which the prickly pear could be put, and proclaiming the great commercial value of that much abused plant. The writer of the article, *inter alia*, stated that both sugar and spirit could be extracted from the plant; that the pulp was an excellent material for paper-making and as food for cattle; and that the plant as food for human consumption was equal to any other vegetable that grew in the garden. I submitted the article to Professor Dunstan for his views thereon, which views were not sufficiently favourable for me to pursue the matter further.

(D.) Shipping.

The number of visiting ships continues to decrease. Fifty-three vessels called during the year under review, as against 57 in 1907. Seventeen passing vessels were boarded by licensed traders, being one less than in the previous year. Of the 53 vessels which called 39 were British, including nine ships-of-war. The tonnage of calling ships shows an increase of 35,272 over the previous year. This increase is entirely due to the unusual number of His Majesty's ships that called, the aggregate tonnage of which was 70,607. Only one foreign (German) man-of-war called during the year. Twenty-eight vessels (27 of which were British) entered and cleared during the year with a tonnage of 156,482. The figures in 1907 were 29 and 160,655 respectively. Four whalers touched at the port during the year under review—three being American sailing craft, who called to give their men liberty ashore and to replenish their crews; and one steam vessel flying the Norwegian flag, who put in for coal. This latter vessel was bound to Port Natal, where a company has been formed for the purpose of capturing whales off that coast. Many years ago St. Helena possessed her whalers, the last of which was owned by Messrs. Solomon, Moss, Gideon, and Company. This was in 1875. The vessel was manned chiefly by St. Helenians. Sperm whales are found a few days' sail from St. Helena, and the "right" whale even nearer to the Island. It is to be regretted that the capital is not forthcoming for St. Helena to equip a whaling fleet of three or four vessels, and so give employment to a large number of boatmen who are now "loafers" through no fault of their own. Seventy or 80 per cent. of these men have served on board American whalers, and several of them have great experience in whaling work.

III.—LEGISLATION.

Six Ordinances were enacted during the year. Those calling for comment are:—

No. 1.—To amend the Sunday Ordinance No. 3 of 1849 by permitting shops (other than those for the sale of liquor) to be open on Sundays during the hours a mail steamer is in port. This Ordinance was enacted with the concurrence of the Lord Bishop and Clergy of the Church of England, and the Baptist Minister, in St. Helena. Since the Ordinance came into force there has been no abuse of the privileges granted. Only two mail steamers a month call at St. Helena—one outward, the other homeward-bound. The presence of these steamers in port are among the few occasions on which the shopkeepers of the Island have a chance of doing a little trade outside the local demand. The homeward-bound boat invariably arrives on a Sunday in spite of repeated representations to the Steamship Company on the subject. The outward-bound steamers arrive on a Monday or Tuesday, but as often as not after dark. Consequently the Islanders do not benefit from the mail steamers to the extent they might reasonably expect. The general depression in trade, and the fact that only 26 mail steamers call at the Island during the year (13 of which arrive on Sundays, and four or five of the remainder after dark), are the reasons which prompted the enactment of the Ordinance in question.

No. 5.—To amend Ordinance No. 7 of 1905, known as the Peach Fly Ordinance, by permitting fruit imported from South Africa to be landed without being liable to any penalty therefor. I came to the conclusion that it was no longer advisable to forbid the import of fruit from South Africa, looking at the great success which is attending the culture of fruit in that country. The peach fly was originally introduced into St. Helena from South Africa, but after four years' experience I am satisfied the Islanders, or at all events the present generation, will not move a finger to co-operate with the Colonial Government in its endeavours to eradicate the pest. The Government cannot do much by itself owing to the lack of funds necessary to provide for paid inspectors under the 1905 Ordinance. In any case, the amount of fruit imported from South Africa into St. Helena is infinitesimal. There was one prosecution under the Peach Fly Ordinance during the year under review.

No. 6.—"The Road Tax Ordinance," to provide for an annual road tax of 3*s.* upon every male person, if resident in the Colony for at least six months, between the ages of 18 and 60 years, with certain exceptions to be at the discretion of the Governor—the Ordinance only to become operative on a date to be notified by the Governor by Proclamation. The Ordinance was not brought into operation during the year under review.

There was one Proclamation issued during the year relating to the Game Season.

IV.—EDUCATION.

With the exception of the Benevolent Society Schools, a general improvement was manifest during the year under review in the Island's schools. The number of schools remains at nine, three being Government institutions. The Inspector of Schools (Canon Porter) reports well on these three schools, and especially on the Senior Government School in Jamestown. Of the non-Government schools Canon Porter reports most favourably on the Hussey Charity Schools at Hutt's Gate and Blue Hill. In fact, the Inspector states that the progress made during the year is more marked in the former school than in any other. Previously this school had been worked on the old system, and its annual reports had been generally indifferent. Now, however, ancient methods have been abandoned, and the school has been brought into line with the Government schools through the work of the master, who has taken a proper advantage of the training obtained at the Pupil Teachers' Classes. In contrast with the advance made by the Hutt's Gate Schools are the two Benevolent Society's schools. Canon Porter reports that a radical change must be effected if good work is to be done in these schools during the ensuing year.

The aggregate number of children attending the schools during the year was 665, as compared with 634 in 1907. The schools were under the same teachers as in the previous year, and, with the exception of the two cases referred to above, the Inspector reports the work as being quite satisfactory, and, in more than one of the schools, excellent. He further states that the methods of teaching introduced a few years ago have "caught on" and are more or less in general use, and that such methods are being developed even in schools where the teachers have not had the advantage of modern training. In connection with the improvement in educational methods now being developed and extended is oral teaching, which plays so large a part in the enormous difference between the old system and the new. Coupled with this is the object lesson, which is becoming more frequent, and is gradually being added as a general subject in the syllabus of each school. Canon Porter further adds that the improvement shown is also due to the attention given to the matter by the Board of Education and the requirements and regulations put forth by that body from time to time.

I place great importance on the teaching of simple hygiene to the children. The subject receives very careful attention in the Government schools, and my Colonial Surgeon lately satisfied himself that the system adopted to teach the children the importance of cleanliness in their persons and sanitary habits in their houses and living was satisfactory and based on sound ideas. I am in hopes that in time the subject referred to may be considered equally important by those responsible for the teaching in the non-Government schools.

The Pupil Teachers' Classes continue. They have now existed for three years. The six Government pupil teachers passed most

creditable examinations during the year under review, as did one pupil teacher from a Church school. This latter fact is an improvement on former years, being the first case of a non-Government pupil teacher attending the whole course of examination. The disinclination of the majority of the non-Government pupil teachers to take advantage of improving their knowledge free of cost is entirely to their own loss, and, further, their ignorance only retards the work of education in the schools in which they pose as teachers.

Towards the latter half of the year the female pupil teachers and the senior girl scholars in the Government schools attended special classes under Miss Girdwood in fine needlework. These classes are very popular, and will be a great factor in contributing to the future development of the Government Lace School.

There were 35 prosecutions, resulting in 33 convictions, during the year under review under the Education Ordinance for non-attendance. The figures in 1907 were 25 and 19 respectively.

The expenditure on education during the year amounted to £645, as compared with £623 in the previous year. The usual grants of £30 and £25 were paid to the Benevolent Society and Hussey Charity respectively towards the maintenance of their schools. The former sum was not well earned, and I have made it plain to the management of the Benevolent Society that unless a higher standard of excellence is reached in future I shall be compelled to recommend the grant being withdrawn.

The absence of any provision for giving the children of St. Helena the benefits of technical education is badly felt. The outlook for the Island boys when they leave school is not an alluring one. This absence of technical education accounts for the lack of skilled workmen among the Islanders. I am inclined to the growing opinion that to give poor children much book teaching cannot materially benefit them. Wise parents look upon education as a means which will enable their children to earn a livelihood when the time comes for those children to go out into the world. The form of education wanted in St. Helena is to confine book teaching to the three R's during a short part of the day, the rest of the day being taken up entirely in technical education. Domestic economy for girls, carpentry and other trades for boys. The artisan and labouring classes do not benefit to any useful extent by learning history, geography, grammar, &c. All they require in that line is to read, write, and have a knowledge of simple arithmetic. Their real education lies on the industrial side, which will allow them when they grow to man's estate to go out into the world and find employment. Under present conditions in St. Helena, owing to lack of funds, the outlook of the Island youth is a very gloomy one. He is precluded, owing to want of opportunity, from fitting himself for leaving the Island in order to earn a living. It will be a great day for St. Helena when funds are forthcoming to give the benefits of technical education to the Islanders, and so allow the rising generation to become useful citizens of the

Empire. The form of education now given in the Island is most useful, chiefly in its moral and disciplinary sense, but it does little towards fitting the youth of the Island to take its place in the great workshops of the world.

V.—GOVERNMENT INSTITUTIONS.

(A.) Hospital.

There were 137 admissions into the hospital during the year under review, being an increase of 23 over 1907.

There were 11 deaths among the patients as compared with four in the previous year. In seven instances out of the eleven the patients were suffering from hopeless disease on admission. Three of the deaths were due to accidents. Only one case of enteric fever was admitted to the wards, as against 12 in the previous year. Only two cases in all occurred in the Island during the year. Ten cases of diphtheria were treated in the hospital during the same period. Most were mild cases, and all recovered owing to being treated in the early stage with serum.

One thousand and sixty-six out-patients were treated during the year under review.

It is with great regret that I have to record the death, on the 23rd September, 1908, of Miss J. A. Ormerod, a member of the nursing staff. The cause of death was pernicious anæmia. Miss Ormerod had nearly completed two years' service in the Colony. The Colonial Surgeon reports that Miss Ormerod always evinced a zealous devotion to her work, a high sense of duty, and unselfish thought for her patients. Miss E. Stuart completed her extended period of engagement on the nursing staff and left the Colony in May of the year under review. Her place was taken by Miss E. E. Harris, who arrived in the Colony in April. The vacancy caused by the death of Miss Ormerod was filled by Miss K. L. Woodward, who took up her duties at the end of December. Both the ladies named were sent out by the Colonial Nursing Association, which Association has again, in each case, generously contributed towards the upkeep of the staff. The work in the wards owing to the unusual number of serious cases was such as to place a severe strain on the energies of the nursing staff, and much credit is due to the Lady Superintendent and her colleagues for the cheerful and successful manner in which they performed their duties under frequent difficulties.

(B.) Savings Bank.

There were 145 depositors in the Bank's books at the end of the year under review, as compared with 138 in the previous year. This increase was due to Islanders employed in the Port Nolloth mines opening accounts through their relatives in St. Helena.

Some of the oldest depositors closed their accounts on leaving the Island during the year, taking away over £1,700 between them.

The total deposits for the year amounted to £2,241, an increase of £797 over 1907. Although there is no doubt the economic situation in the Colony showed a decided improvement during the year under review as compared with the previous year, especially where the country districts were concerned, this increase of deposits is hardly connected with that improvement. The increase referred to was almost entirely due to two deposits—one amounting to £450 being in connection with the sale and conveyance of property—one depositor, the seller, transferring on paper the amount named to another depositor, the buyer, the amount withdrawn in this case being equal to the amount deposited. The other case was that of a resident legatee, who received money from abroad and had not before been a regular depositor.

The withdrawals for the year amounted to £4,871, being an increase of £1,318 over the previous year. In the withdrawals is included the £1,700 referred to above. Expenditure in connection with placing lands under flax accounted for a large number of withdrawals.

The Bank's revenue for the year was £664, and the expenditure £508, showing a profit on the year of £156. The profit in 1907 was £193.

On the 31st December, 1908, the amount to the credit of the depositors was £17,532 exclusive of interest for the year.

VI.—JUDICIAL STATISTICS.

(A.) Criminal Statistics.

Supreme Court.—Only one case was sent for trial before the Supreme Court during the year under review.

Police Court.—One hundred and twenty-two cases came before the Court during the year, of which 13 resulted in acquittals. Seventy-three of the cases were civil offences, including 33 under the Education Ordinance and one under the Peach Fly Ordinance. There was no prosecution during the year under the Juvenile Smoking Prevention Ordinance. At the same time it is an undoubted fact that the Ordinance in question has practically put an end to juvenile smoking in St. Helena. There were two prosecutions under the Liquor Licensing Ordinance. A parent was fined for sending his child, aged 12, to a public-house for intoxicating liquor; and the seller was fined for supplying liquor not in a sealed vessel to the child for consumption off the premises. Although the total number of cases dealt with by the Police Magistrate during the year under review was 16 in excess of the number in 1907, the number of criminal cases was 21 less than in the previous year.

(B.) Prisons.

Thirty-eight prisoners were committed to the gaol during the year as against 45 in 1907. The daily average number in gaol was 0·8, as compared with 1·16 in the previous year. This average will increase during the next few years, as a prisoner was sentenced to five years' penal servitude during the year under review. For the six years I have been in St. Helena the daily average number of prisoners in gaol works out at 2·6. The health of the prisoners and the sanitary condition of the gaol were alike excellent during the year. The cost of maintaining the gaol for the year was £117 5*s.* 3*d.*, being £5 4*s.* 9*d.* less than in 1907. The average cost of maintenance for the six years ending 1908 was £156 17*s.* 2*d.* The Overseer of Prisoners, Alfred Hall, retired on pension at the end of the year on account of age. The post in question has been abolished. The Zulu prisoners continue to be quiet and orderly. Two of their number died during the year under review, one from tubercle of the lungs and the other from heart disease. Both the deceased were practically on the sick list from the date of their arrival in the Colony in June, 1907. The total cost of maintaining the Zulu prisoners for the year under review amounted to £923 odd, which cost is met by the Natal Government.

(C.) Police Force.

The police force continues to perform its duties to my satisfaction. Although the number of offences noticed by or reported to the Magistrate or to the police was 10 more than in 1907—the numbers being 203 and 193 respectively—crime continues on the decrease. The increase in the number of offences was entirely due to purely civil cases. The civil cases numbered 73, as against 54 in 1907. These civil cases resulted from summonses issued for non-payment of rates, taxes, Government and other rents, drainage and water claims, and offences under the Education Ordinance. Only 49 criminal cases were dealt with by the Police Magistrate in his Court. The remainder, 81 in number, were of a trivial nature, and were dealt with by the police. There were no cases of flogging during the year under review.

VII.—VITAL STATISTICS.

(A.) Population.

The estimated civil population amounted to 3,517 on the 31st December, 1908. There were, in addition to that number, 23 Zulu prisoners, two Natal warders, and the crew of a sailing vessel in port, numbering 16. This brings the total population on the last day of the year to 3,558. An increase of 32 will be noted in the civil population as compared with the previous year, notwithstanding the fact that the emigrants exceeded the immigrants by 18, the numbers being 72 and 55 respectively. The increase in

population was due to there being 84 births (not including four still-born) as against 34 deaths.

The births showed a marked decrease as compared with 1907. There were 88 births, including four still-born, as against 134 (four still-born) in the previous year. This decrease is partly accounted for by the fact that many married men left the Island in June, 1907, for the Namaqualand copper mines. I regret to state that during the year under review there were, excluding still-born children, 27 illegitimate births out of the total of 84, as compared with 32 out of 130 in 1907. This large increase in the percentage of illegitimate births is somewhat remarkable and upsets all calculations, looking at the fact that it is well over two years since the garrison was withdrawn from St. Helena, and it has always been a firm belief that the presence of troops in the Island accounted for a large number of illegitimate births. Taking the last six years, the percentage of illegitimate births to the total number of births was:—

29·3 in 1903, 20·3 in 1904, 19·1 in 1905,
32·1 in 1906, 24·6 in 1907, and 32·1 in 1908.

The death-rate among the civil population was practically the same as in the previous year, being 9·6 per thousand, as against 9·4 per thousand in 1907. There were 37 deaths in all, including two Zulu prisoners (who both arrived in the Colony in June, 1907, suffering from organic diseases) and one seaman who was landed and admitted to hospital in a dying condition. This leaves 34 deaths among the civil population, as against 33 deaths in 1907. Among the deaths during the year under review were four due to accidents, one leper, and one lunatic. No less than 13 of the deaths were of persons over the age of 70, nine of whom were over 80. Only two deaths occurred in the Longwood district in a population of about 430, the ages of the deceased being 72 and 95 years.

Nineteen marriages were solemnised during the year, being an increase of two over the previous year.

(B.) Public Health.

The low death-rate among the civil population of 1907 was repeated during the year under review, being only 0·2 per thousand in excess of the former year.

As regards the healthfulness of the different districts in St. Helena, it is worthy of note that there were only two deaths during the year under review in the Longwood area. The ages of the deceased were 95 and 72 years. These two deaths work out to a death-rate for the district named of under 0·5 per cent. of the population for the year. The Colonial Surgeon suggests that this tends to dissipate an idea that has long prevailed among prejudiced persons regarding an historic spot, namely, that Longwood was chosen by a malign British Government of days gone by on account of the insalubrity of its climate, and therefor a fitting place of residence for Napoleon. Dr. Arnold hazards the opinion, which I too share, that taking it all round

there exists no healthier spot than Longwood on the face of the earth.

As stated previously in this Report, there were only two cases of enteric fever in the Island during the year under review. The source of infection could not be traced in either case. Twenty cases of diphtheria were noted, a few of which were in the country districts. There was, however, ground for belief that the contagion was incurred in Jamestown, where most of the cases occurred. There were no fatal cases. There were two deaths from tubercular disease among the Islanders, one from acute tuberculosis and the other from tubercle of the lung of some years' standing. A death from leprosy was registered during the year, that of a man aged 58, who had suffered from the disease for many years. A grand-child (aged seven years) of this man has developed the disease, and the question of taking measures to isolate this and any further cases that may arise is under consideration. The Colonial Surgeon remarks that "Isolated cases of leprosy have apparently existed in St. Helena for many years, but the disease has never shown a tendency to spread. It is probable that, were all the circumstances known, the element of infection has been the connecting link between them all."

In the month of May four cases of measles occurred in a household at Longwood. The family had only recently arrived from Europe, and the children had received the contagion on board ship. On the recommendation of my Colonial Surgeon, the school in the Longwood district was closed for a short period, and no further cases occurred. Dr. Arnold puts down this happy confining of the disease to the original four cases as being no doubt chiefly due to the large numbers of protected children who have been immunised by the epidemic of 1905.

(C.) Sanitary.

Evidence was forthcoming during the year that the drainage and water systems were not working altogether satisfactorily. In several instances blocks in house drains, and in some cases in the main sewer, were found to be traceable to the very careless use of sanitary fittings by a large number of householders who consigned to water-closet pans and gully traps articles (including clothing, nails, etc.) which were never intended to be placed there. This practice was calculated to cause serious damage to the drainage system. The reappearance in Jamestown of diphtheria during the years 1907 and 1908, after an absence of that disease for a decade and a half, has, in Dr. Arnold's opinion, a more than possible connection with the frequent blocks in house drains and sewers. At the same time, Dr. Arnold remarks that "It is to be noted that many good authorities deny that defective drains can have any connection with the prevalence of diphtheria."

Shortage in the water supply of Jamestown, on the occasion of water being supplied to the shipping, occurred on more than

one occasion during the year under review. I appointed a Board of Inquiry to investigate the causes of this shortage. The Board went thoroughly into the matter, and reported that (*a*) the supply of water from the springs has not diminished during recent years; (*b*) that the recent shortage of water was caused by preventable waste by the Jamestown householders; (*c*) that there was no reason to suppose that there is any leakage or waste from the underground mains; and (*d*) that there is little or no waste from the pipes connecting the springs with the collecting tanks. The Board recommended the advisability of providing an additional storage tank of, say, 10,000 gallons at the top of Jamestown. Unfortunately funds are not available to carry out a recommendation in which I concur. As soon as the first shortage of water was brought to my notice, I, in addition to appointing a Board of Inquiry, appointed the members of the Police Force and the Government plumber to be assistant sanitary inspectors, the Board having recommended such a course at their first sitting. Since taking that action no shortage of water has been reported. Both the abuse of the drainage system and the wastage of water was due to the crass ignorance of five-sixths of the Jamestown community.

(D.) Climate.

Hutt's Gate.

Barometer.—Mean pressure, 28·134 inches.

Temperature.—

	1908.	1907.
Mean	58·8°	60·9°
Absolute maximum	75·0°	76·0°
Absolute minimum	50·5°	49·9°

Rainfall.—The total rainfall was 39·32 inches, as against 44·04 inches in the previous year. The heaviest fall took place on January 27th, and amounted to 1·22 inches. It rained on 274 days, as against 276 in 1907. Rain fell on every day in November, although the total fall for that month was only 3·92 inches. The heaviest record for one month was in August, when 6·19 inches fell on 27 days of rain.

Wind.—Mean force was 2·4, or 14 miles per hour. The mean force varies but little from year to year. The windiest months were August and November. On the 19th of the latter month a speed of 38 miles per hour was recorded.

Table of direction:—

S.S.E.	197 days.
S.E.	141 ,,
E.S.E.	14 ,,
S.	8 ,,
E.N.E.	1 day.
Calm	5 days.

Jamestown.

Temperature.—

	1908.	1907.
Mean	71·9°	72·8°
Maximum	80·0°	81·0°
Minimum	65·0°	65·0°

Rainfall.—

	1908.	1907.
Total for year	6·31 ins.	11·50 ins.
Number of rainy days ...	86	107
Maximum fall	0·42 ins.	0·71 ins.

June was the wettest month with 1·30 inches on 15 days of rain.

Private Stations.

Rainfall.—

Oakbank:—

	1908.	1907.
Total fall	40·85 ins.	50·06 ins.
Number of rainy days ...	238	237

St. Paul's Vicarage:—

	1908.	1907.
Total fall	29·81 ins.	39·91 ins.
Number of rainy days ...	134	181

VIII.—POSTAL, TELEGRAPH, AND TELEPHONE SERVICES.

(A.) Postal.

Revenue.—The postal revenue for the year amounted to £1,290 0*s.* 3*d.*, being an increase of £731 4*s.* 5*d.* over the receipts for the previous year. This large increase was almost entirely due to the sale of stamps to non-resident stamp collectors, consequent on the Colony issuing four new values of stamps, namely, 2½*d.*, 4*d.*, 6*d.*, and 10*s.* during the year under review. No less than £1,201 9*s.* 1*d.* of the total revenue resulted from the sale of stamps and post-cards, £776 16*s.* 3*d.* of which was paid by non-residents. In 1907 the value of stamps sold to non-residents was £176 11*s.* 2*d.*, or £600 odd less than in the year under review.

Expenditure.—The expenditure for the year amounted to £409 5*s.* 1*d.*, being £81 2*s.* 4*d.* in excess of the expenditure for the previous year. This excess was chiefly caused by the cost of the dies for the four new values of stamps referred to above and for the printing of same. There was also an increase, as compared with 1907, on the amount paid in commission (2½ per cent.) to the Postmaster and Chief Clerk on stamps sold to non-residents.

Mail matter.—Only 16 insured letters passed through the Post Office during the year under review, and 3,256 registered articles during the same period, being increases of 14 and 1,914 respectively as compared with the previous year.

Exclusive of insured and registered articles, the following figures give the number of letters, post-cards, parcels, &c., despatched from the Colony during the year under review and the previous year:—

1908	...	...	45,187.
1907	...	...	39,585.

This increase was in the main due to the Second Cruiser Squadron, consisting of His Majesty's ships "Good Hope," "Devonshire," "Antrim," and "Carnarvon," despatching their Christmas mail from the Colony.

One hundred and sixty-six bags of mails and 1,727 parcels were received from the United Kingdom during the year, being decreases of 16 and 64 respectively as compared with 1907.

From South Africa 57 bags of mails and 318 parcels were received, as against 57 bags and 530 parcels in the previous year.

The mail despatched to the Island of Tristan da Cunha in September, 1907, was duly received. In June of the year under review a mail was despatched to the island named in the American whaler "Canton." The receipt of this mail has not yet been notified.

Money and Postal Orders.—There was an increase of £820 on the total Money and Postal Order transactions during the year under review as compared with 1907, the amounts being £6,710 and £5,890 respectively. A marked preference for Postal Orders over Money Orders as a means of remitting money was shown by the Islanders. Commission on Orders during the year amounted to £59 11*s.* 4½*d.*, being an increase over the figures for 1907 of £18 2*s.* 7*d.*

The commission charged on Money Orders was raised during the year to all countries as follows:—

	From.		To.	
	s.	*d.*	*s.*	*d.*
Sums not exceeding £2	0	6	0	9
,, exceeding £2 and not exceeding £5 ...	1	0	1	3
,, ,, £5 ,, ,, £7 ...	1	6	1	9
,, ,, £7 ,, ,, £10 ...	2	0	2	6
,, ,, £10 ,, ,, £20 ...	4	0	5	0
,, ,, £20 ,, ,, £30 ...	6	0	7	6
,, ,, £30 ,, ,, £40 ...	8	0	10	0

Parcel Post Rates.—The following reductions in parcel post rates to the countries mentioned came into force in August of the year under review:—

	From		To	
Southern Rhodesia per lb.	2	8	1	11
Orange River Colony, Transvaal ,, ,, ...	1	4	0	11

General.—The Post Office Tariff of the Colony has been printed in pamphlet form. Previous to 1908 the Tariff was contained in

various local notices and notices issued by the General Post Office in London, which system was a most difficult one for both officials and the public to refer to.

(B.) Telegraphs and Telephones.

Telegraphs.—The Eastern Telegraph Company now maintain a staff of 36 employees, being an increase of six over the previous year.

Telephones.—The limited telephone system maintained at the expense of a few individuals continues to work satisfactorily.

(C.) Signal Stations.

The signal station at Ladder Hill is the only one maintained, the salary of the signalman being paid by Lloyds.

IX.—GENERAL OBSERVATIONS.

(A.) Roads.

An Imperial grant-in-aid of £360 allowed of the chief rural roads and bridges being kept in fair repair. Attention was chiefly paid to those roads used in the transport of leaves to the Government flax mill at Longwood. In connection with these repairs it was found possible to lay down about sixty under-road drains to take the place of the wheel-breaking surface drains which had previously existed. The more modern type of drain has proved most efficaceous in preventing to a great extent the excessive damage formerly caused to the roads in a hilly country where heavy and continuous rains are very prevalent.

Towards the end of the year under review a "Road Tax Ordinance" was enacted, but did not come into operation during the year. Particulars as to this Ordinance are given earlier in this Report under the head of Legislation.

Sixty-five pounds was expended during the year in keeping the streets of Jamestown in repair.

(B.) Land Grants and General Value of Lane.

The value of land remained about what it was in the previous year. Three transfers of land took place, and only one grant of one acre to a small holder.

The rents collected during the year amounted to £808, as compared with £799 3*s.* 10*d.* in 1907.

(C.) Rate of Wages and Cost of Living.

The rate of wages and cost of living remained as in 1907. Meat and vegetables were cheap, and consequently those who were fortunate enough to earn a regular wage were nearly as well off as in ordinary times. There was less begging than in the previous year, but sufficient to cause anxiety. This especially

refers to the poorer classes in Jamestown, who do not of course benefit from the flax industry as does the country community. On the other hand, many families in Jamestown, where the girls of the family were honestly anxious and ready to earn a livelihood and become useful members of the community, benefited in no small degree by the establishment of the lace industry.

(D.) Public Works of Importance carried out in Whole or Part during the Year.

One thousand four hundred and twenty pounds was expended during the year under review under an Imperial grant allotted to the Colony to cover the cost of the laying of a new three-inch cast-iron water main from Well's Gut to the Government Flax Mill at Longwood, the old two-inch lead main having been in use for close on a hundred years. The cost of laying the new main, together with erecting storage tanks at the intake, is proving to be a very much more expensive job than was contemplated by Sergeant Willoughby, R.E., who drew up the original estimate of cost. In fact, the total cost will be about double Sergeant Willoughby's figures. The work, too, has occupied considerably more time than was at first anticipated. Many unforeseen difficulties have had to be met, and the completion of the work will not take place until well into the current year. The work of laying the new main is entirely under the supervision of the War Department Land Agent in this Colony, Honorary Major Michie, late Royal Engineers, who consented, with the Army Council's permission, to undertake the work, thereby saving the necessity of engaging the services of an expert from England.

(E.) Departments and Institutions.

With the exception of the Public Works Department, all the other Departments requiring notice have already been dealt with in this Report.

The total expenditure of the Public Works Department during the year under review amounted to £1,169, being a decrease of £164 as compared with the previous year. The state of the Colony's finances would not allow of any special work being undertaken. Efforts were entirely confined to preserving ordinary efficiency. The maintenance of the rural roads and bridges is carried out by the department referred to, but the cost thereof was covered by an Imperial grant. The department's expenditure, outside the maintenance of country roads and the laying of a new water main from Well's Gut to Longwood, was confined to works recurrent. The following are the figures for the years 1907 and 1908 under the most important sub-heads:—

	1908.	1907.
	£	£
Buildings	376	394
Scavenging, Jamestown	103	111
Forests and gardens	137	139
Water supply	175	199
Jamestown streets	65	59
Repairs to Plantation	25	26

The Colonial Government early in the year took over the following properties from the War Department:—

1. The Sanatorium, Red Hill.
2. The Ladder.
3. Upper and Lower Lines, Jamestown.
4. The Mess House, Jamestown.
5. R.E. Offices and Workshops, Jamestown.
6. No. 1 Staff Officers' Quarters, Jamestown.
7. Three Stores on the Wharf, Jamestown.

Of the above, No. 4 is used by the Government Lace School, and No. 5 is occupied by the Public Works Department. The acquisition of this latter property has added much to the comfort of both officials and artisans.

Poor Board.

The revenue of the Poor Board for the year amounted to £800 13*s.* 4*d.*, and the expenditure to £790 1*s.* 4*d.*, as compared with £799 and £798 respectively in 1907.

Public Market.

A decided improvement marked the management of the market during the year under review. The new Committee succeeded in converting a debt of £5 into a credit of £35 during their nine months of office. The Local Auditor reported favourably on the manner in which the accounts were kept. The revenue of the market for the year was £105 as compared with £80 in 1907, and the expenditure £70 as against £85 in the previous year. The expenditure for the year under review (£70) includes the wiping off of the £5 deficit incurred in 1907.

(F.) Miscellaneous.

The establishment of an industry which allowed St. Helena to make an encouraging start in the export of a valuable product is alone sufficient to mark the year under review as one to be remembered in the Colony's history.

The economic situation in 1908 showed a marked improvement over that of the previous two years. Unfortunately, however, the benefits accruing from the fibre industry were confined almost entirely to the country districts as far as the labouring classes were concerned. The rural population can look back upon 1908 as a good year. Not only was there a considerable demand for labour in connection with the fibre industry, but numbers of men were employed for most of the year on the works in connection with the repairs of the roads and the laying of the new water main in the Longwood district. Taking it all round, the pinch of poverty, which was very apparent in 1907, was almost non-existent during the year under review in the country districts. The same cannot be said of Jamestown. As I have stated on other occasions, the Jamestown man cannot compete with his brethren in the country as an agricultural and road labourer in

the proper sense of that term. He has to depend, as of yore, on the shipping as the chief source of gaining a livelihood. His existence is therefore a very precarious one in these days when shipping appears almost to avoid calling at St. Helena. In fact, one wonders at times how many of the poorer families in Jamestown manage to exist. Their greatest hopes lie in the visits of His Majesty's ships. Last year those visits were usually numerous, no less than nine British war-ships having called at the port of Jamestown during that period, eight of the number during the last quarter of the year. Among the ships referred to was H.M.S. "Hermes," flying the flag of Vice-Admiral Sir E. S. Poë, K.C.B., K.C.V.O., R.N., Commander-in-Chief of the Cape Station. The "Hermes" arrived in March, and remained at St Helena for a fortnight. The Second Cruiser Squadron, consisting of four large vessels, under the command of Rear Admiral (now Vice-Admiral) Sir Percy Scott, K.C.V.O., C.B., LL.D., R.N., paid a few days' visit to the Island in November. These visits and those of several other war-ships saved the situation as far as the Jamestown community was concerned. The practical and sympathetic interest taken in St. Helena by Sir Edmund Poë prompted him to remain in port for what was a lengthened stay for a flag ship in these days. His action was greatly appreciated both by the Colonial Government and by the community generally, as was the action of the Admiralty in arranging that the Second Cruiser Squadron should visit St. Helena on its way back from South Africa. It is some years since the Jamestown community saw so many British war-ships in port as was the case during the last few weeks of 1908.

St. Helena is fortunate in having found a friend and sympathiser in Mr. A. Mosely, C.M.G. This gentleman arrives in the Colony in a few days' time with a view to, if possible, establish a vegetable and fish canning factory in Jamestown. Mr. Mosely has expressed his intention of advancing the necessary funds to finance the scheme. This gentleman's generous action is warmly applauded and appreciated by the Islanders. His offer to help St. Helena in its need came as a veritable bolt from the blue, and being unexpected was all the more welcome. Mr. Mosely has paid fleeting visits to St. Helena in the past on his way to and from South Africa, and it appears that he was struck by the unused possibilities of the Island. His sympathies, too, go with a people who are, as it were, cut off from the world, and who therefore are not in a position to participate in modern developments of methods and trade. It is, as Mr. Mosely asserts, almost impossible for an isolated island to develop anything without outside assistance. History points to this fact. I am in great hopes Mr. Mosely's expectations may be fully realised, and that before long the fish-curing industry will be established in the Island. Unlike the fibre industry, the establishment of a fish-curing factory would directly benefit the Jamestown community. A factory that will take all the fish brought to it cannot but go a long way towards restoring to Jamestown many of the benefits enjoyed by the community thereof when St. Helena was a port of call for shipping. I am inclined to think that success should attend the fish-curing scheme, although it has yet to be proved

by an expert whether the fish in St. Helena waters are for the most part local or passing fish. An expert on fisheries, Mr. J. T. Cunningham, accompanies Mr. Mosely, and will go thoroughly into the matter. I am not very sanguine as to the canning of vegetables proving to be a practical scheme—there is such a very limited area of good cultivable land in St. Helena. In 1884 Sir D. Morris reported that of the 28,800 acres of which St. Helena consists no less than 20,000 acres were totally unfit for agricultural purposes. Of the remaining 9,000 acres, a fairly large area is under flax (*phormium tenax*), whilst the balance chiefly consists of grazing lands. Putting aside, however, the limited amount of land available for vegetable cultivation, the greatest difficulty to be encountered in St. Helena by every agricultural industry is the question of transport. This difficulty has seriously handicapped the success of the fibre industry. Distances are exaggerated owing to the abnormally hilly nature of the country. It is entirely the transport difficulty which prevents the aloe fibre industry being established. Turning again to the proposed cultivation of vegetables for canning purposes, the price paid for such vegetables is very low (from 8d. to 10d. per 60 lbs.) and a profit can only be made by producing large quantities of the article. Now, the factory must be in Jamestown, and it would be quite impossible for growers to deliver their produce at the factory, anything from four to eight miles away, across a hilly country, at the price named. Fortunately the question of transport does not affect the fish-curing scheme, as the fish could be delivered to the factory almost direct from the boats. The Islanders can only await events, and trust that much good will come out of Mr. Mosely's praiseworthy efforts to help St. Helena in her time of need. Should the vegetable canning scheme prove to be impracticable, I have no doubt a man of Mr. Mosely's energy and wide experience will formulate another scheme to take its place. That gentleman's arrival is looked forward to with intense interest and expectation. Looking at the struggle the Colony has been making during the last two or three years against adverse circumstances, it can be well understood that the advent of Mr. Mosely, with a view to putting into shape his philanthropic schemes, will be hailed by the Islanders as an event unique in their experience. At the same time there is no doubt that Mr. Mosely will have to exercise plenty of patience in organising his venture. The unenthusiastic nature of the Islanders will, I fear, prove a bar to quick progress. St. Helena fishermen particularly are, as a class, sadly wanting in enterprise. It is, however, to be hoped that they, being wise in time, will rise to the occasion.

An Industrial Exhibition, on a modest scale, of lace, needlework, seed work, and other handicrafts was held in March of the year under review, under the auspices of the late Lace-making Association. Great credit is due to the Honourable H. W. Solomon, Miss Moody, and those other ladies and gentlemen who formed the committee which managed the exhibition. Most of the exhibits were sent to England, and were on view for a few days at Caxton Hall. I am afraid that exhibiting the work of

beginners outside of the Colony was somewhat premature, and served no really useful purpose except perhaps to gain some sympathy for the Islanders in their efforts to start the lace-making industry. The Right Honourable the Secretary of State for the Colonies opened the Exhibition at Caxton Hall, on which occasion His Lordship's sympathetic references to St. Helena were greatly appreciated in the Colony. Mrs. Ord Marshall took infinite pains in arranging the exhibits, and doing all she could to further St. Helena's interests.

The Union-Castle Steamship Company considerably reduced their rates of passage money between St. Helena and South Africa during the year under review, and made a slight reduction towards the end of the year in those rates between England and St. Helena. The Company's freight rates, however, are almost prohibitive between St. Helena and South Africa and St. Helena and Ascension. For instance, for a voyage of 60 hours to Ascension the Company charge 60s. a head on cattle, and 20s. a ton plus 10 per cent. primage on general cargo. To and from South Africa the charge on general cargo is 40s. a ton, plus 10 per cent. primage, and the voyage only takes from 5½ to 6 days.

With the very best of intentions, certain of St. Helena's well-wishers in England have allowed their enthusiasm in the Colony's cause to overrun their better judgment by prompting them to claim for the Island advantages as a holiday resort which it certainly does not possess. The most alluring inducements are being held out by these people through the columns of the English newspapers as to St. Helena's advantages as a holiday resort. Among the advantages claimed are a splendid climate, cheap hotels and boarding-houses, comfortable houses at a low rent, &c., &c. They even go so far as to state that St. Helena possesses "some of the finest golf links in the world!" The kind thought which prompts St. Helena's well-wishers in England to promote the Colony's interests is fully appreciated, but it is generally recognised that more harm than good must result from misrepresentation, for such misrepresentation can only lead to disappointment among any persons who might decide to visit the Colony on the strength of the inducements held out to them in the newspapers. It would serve the Island's interests better if only facts were stated. What are those facts? The climate is very healthy, and, although in the tropics, that of the highlands is very temperate and never too hot. There is not a single hotel in the Island, and the so-called boarding-houses in Jamestown might at a pinch accommodate half-a-dozen people. There are no boarding-houses in the country, where visitors would require accommodation. There are about six untenanted houses which could be leased at reasonable rents, half of which are either unfurnished or only partly furnished. "Some of the finest golf links in the world" must be taken as referring to the one golf course of nine holes, there being no suitable site for a second course in the Island. I should be very pleased to see St. Helena become a health and holiday resort. If visitors were forthcoming boarding-houses would soon spring up. It is not to be expected, however, that such establishments will be started on

chance. As things stand at present, accommodation for more than a very few visitors does not exist, and any persons proposing to visit the Colony would be wise to ensure beforehand that the accommodation they require is both suitable and available. Visitors, too, must be prepared to find the Island somewhat dull. There are few diversions by day and practically none by night. In any case, the hilly nature of the country and uncertain weather conditions do not conduce to the comfort of night travelling in St. Helena. Taking it all round, the Island's advantages, as far as holiday and health seekers are concerned, lie almost entirely in its healthy climate.

In conclusion, I would observe that the Colony entered upon the year 1909 with great hopes that the improved state of affairs set up in 1908 would continue; and, the Jamestown community particularly, that another industry would ere long be established which will prove as great a blessing to the town folk as the fibre industry is proving to the country community. The Islanders, especially the Jamestown community, must, however, bring themselves to recognise that no industry can flourish unless "regular labour" takes the place of that "casual labour" upon which they have been content to rely in the past for a livelihood. I have no fear of the fibre industry suffering from want of efficient and sufficient labour. I am, however, somewhat anxious on that point where the lace-making and fish-curing industries are concerned. The latter industry particularly, as, if established, its maintenance will depend almost entirely on labour supplied by the Jamestown community, the members of which community, with some exceptions, have come to regard casual labour as far preferable to regular employment. The enervating nature of the Jamestown climate no doubt chiefly accounts for this unfortunate trait in the character of its people. Provided the Islanders wake up and are honest in their endeavours, I am convinced that in three years' time St. Helena will have emerged from the doldrums through which she is now struggling.

H. L. GALLWEY,

Governor and
Commander-in-Chief.

The Castle,
St. Helena,
15th February, 1909.

APPENDIX A.

REPORT ON THE GOVERNMENT FLAX MILL FOR THE YEAR ENDING 30TH NOVEMBER, 1908.

In reviewing the first year's working of the Government Flax Mill, it would be well to consider the difficulties to be encountered in establishing an industry in a new colony, and although the dressing of phormium had been tried in St. Helena some years ago, the methods adopted were of such a primitive nature that the venture was a financial failure, and had to be abandoned.

2. The main mill buildings comprise two sheds of wood and iron 60 ft. by 20 ft. and 30 ft. by 20 ft. respectively. There are also two wooden sheds 60 ft. by 20 ft. each. One a fibre store, and the other a general store and office. The buildings were completed in November, 1907, and the machinery comprising one 32 B.H.P. oil engine by Hornsby & Sons, one Booth Macdonald stripper, one scutcher, and one fibre press, with all necessary shafting and pulleys, were installed about the end of November, and the mill had a trial run on the 2nd of December under Mr. C. J. Fulton and myself. The result being satisfactory, the mill was formally opened by His Excellency the Governor a few days later.

3. When the amount of flax was first estimated it was doubtful if there was sufficient leaf already grown to keep the mill working full-handed until the later plantations were ready, but the distress of the inhabitants in parts of the Island being acute, it was deemed advisable to commence operations as soon as possible, and only to mill sufficient to pay actual working expenses. There was also a shortage of water for the first five or six months, owing to unusually dry weather. The course mentioned was adopted, and for the first six months the mill only worked about six hours a day, paying a little over working expenses.

4. The labour employed in the mill consists of 17 island men, who, although never having seen anything of this kind before, adapted themselves to the work very quickly, and in three months had mastered most of the details of handling the fibre in the various departments, which goes to prove that the poverty in the Island is not the result of idleness, and that the people will work if they are given the opportunity.

5. Owing to the reasons before stated, the mill has only dressed 1,056 tons of green leaf during the year, returning 119½ tons fibre and 36 tons tow, resulting in a gross revenue of £3,301, which, after deducting London charges and freight, leaves a sum of £2,849 for the benefit of the Island. The quality of the fibre would probably be equal to New Zealand G.F.A.Q., though the price has not been as good as the New Zealand article of that grade is realising. Now come some of the difficulties of introducing an unknown article. In the first instance: during the first five months the mill worked, owing to the very large quantity of Manila fibre coming forward, and the fact that Manila fibre controls the market, the price of all other fibres fell in price, and phormium fibre fell something like £9 in five months. This was very serious for the new industry, as it meant a loss to the Island on the six months' out-put of something like £500. Then, again, the fact that the St. Helena article is quite unknown, and has no grader to answer for it as has New Zealand fibre, was a factor acting against obtaining the highest price, and the quantity shipped is so small that it offers no chance for speculation as does the New Zealand article. These facts mean that St. Helena must make a good article and take her chance of the market until the demand for phormium fibre increases. In my opinion it would be of great advantage to the industry to have the fibre graded in St. Helena, as merchants would know what class of fibre they were purchasing. This would mean that they could probably offer a higher price for the fibre, as at present they can only pay a price that will pay for the risk of buying an article that they don't know any thing about. But so long as Manila fibre continues to come forward in such large quantities we cannot hope for much improvement in the phormium fibre market, even under the best conditions as regards milling, with "Fair Current" Manila at about £24 10s., and New Zealand fibre at £25 a ton. This grade of Manila was until seven or eight months ago about £3 higher than New Zealand "Good

Fair." This extraordinary position means that with New Zealand at £25 at present, "Fair Current" Manila in the same comparison would be worth £28, so that we are realising a comparatively high price when we get £24 a ton for our fibre. At the same time I cannot help thinking that having the fibre graded by a competent man would assist its sale in London; and I would again advise the Government seriously to consider this matter.

6. As I stated in paragraph 3 of this report, it was questionable if there was sufficient leaf to keep the mill working constantly. This has turned out to be the case, and the mill will have to shut down for some months during 1909. This may also affect the future sale of the fibre, as the merchants will get out of touch with the article. This, however, cannot be helped, as it would be a great mistake to cut the young flax too soon for several reasons. In the first place, although the leaf may be of sufficient length in say two years, namely six or seven feet, it would not yield the quantity of fibre per ton of green leaf, so the miller would lose. Then, again, by leaving the plants another year the leaf would probably grow another foot or eighteen inches. This would mean considerably more weight per acre for the grower, so that this temporary stoppage cannot be avoided.

7. In regard to the local difficulties encountered in dressing the flax, they are no worse than in the Dominion of New Zealand, and can be met with equal success. The chief difficulty was a shortage of water. This is being overcome by having a new main laid. As regards the weather in relation to bleaching the fibre, and also the question of separating the different qualities of the leaf; these are matters that must be left to judgment and careful management by the manager, as no possible rule can be laid down. Nothing but considerable experience in phormium milling will guarantee satisfactory results. Another local difficulty (outside of milling) is the transport of leaf to the mill. This is a serious matter, owing to the very hilly nature of the Island and I think that, now the growers have had some experience of this difficulty, more consideration might have been given in some instances to the question of future transport when planting flax. I quite understand the area available for growing flax is limited, at the same time some of the flax has been planted in places that at present prices would scarcely pay for the cost of cutting and getting it to the mill. Let us hope, however, that the price will improve, and with the aid of the indispensable donkey, the question of transport will be successfully met.

8. As regards the future of the industry in St. Helena, it has, in my opinion, a good outlook, for we must always meet difficulties in starting any industry, and these have been more or less overcome. Regarding the price realised for the fibre and tow, considering the market, we have reason to believe that the price will rise during the next few months as the consumption of Manila is keeping pace with the large production, and it is questionable if Manila is being dressed and sold in London for £24 10*s.* a ton at a profit. Again, nearly all expenses are proportionately heavier on very small shipments than on, say, shipments from 20 to 25 tons, and when we know that something like 3,000 tons of leaf a year will be available for milling in about three years, coupled with the cheap labour that is employed, I see no reason why the phormium industry should not have a prosperous future in St. Helena.

(Signed) A. W. HALL,
Mill Manager.

Government Flax Mill,
Longwood, St. Helena,
7th January, 1909.

APPENDIX B.

REPORT ON THE GOVERNMENT LACE SCHOOL FOR THE SIX MONTHS ENDING 31ST DECEMBER, 1908.

It was only when the lace industry was taken over by the Colonial Government in July, 1908, that anything in the way of organisation became possible. Previous to this everything attempted had been of an experimental nature—the results leading in many cases to disappointment, owing to want of training and stability on the part of the pupils.

The idea had firmly taken hold of the community that the "lace industry" was an unfailing charitable institution, an appeal to which would never be made in vain, so that one of the chief difficulties has been to impress upon the people that true kindness consists not in almsgiving, but in teaching them to help themselves. In consequence of pressure upon this point, the incorrigibly indolent and slovenly have gradually weeded themselves out, finding that unless they would take the trouble to conform to the standard required, lace-making did not pay.

In order that the prospective "weeding-out" should leave a sufficient number of good workers to carry on the school, all who wished to learn were accepted, as well as all the old workers who cared to return, so that everyone might have a chance. Thus on the 1st July the numbers stood at about 140. These increased during the month to 160, when further admittance was refused.

The establishment of a lace school under Government control has been a most important factor in whatever has been accomplished during the last six months, for the uncertainty connected with the late association prevented many of the better toned girls from joining. These have now settled down, secure in the belief that the school has "come to stay," and with Government authority and influence to back all attempts at reformation, progress became possible and was soon evident in the appearance and manner of the workers as well as the quality of their work.

The need, however, of careful and conscientious work as an equivalent for remuneration expected had to be instilled by degrees, and a complete re-adjustment of method upon strict principles of equity was absolutely necessary. Criticism and rejection of inferior work meant tearful workers and irate parents, who had to be compelled to see both sides of the question, but step by step the natural reasonableness of the Islanders has gradually asserted itself, and the pupils are now becoming not only painstaking, careful, and clean, but in many cases interested enough to experiment in small improvements to the benefit of their work. This interest is growing and proving a valuable aid in keeping them steady.

Judging by results of the experiments already referred to, it was seen best to develop the school chiefly on needlework and embroidery lines, with lace-making merely as a necessary adjunct until such time as the workers should be thoroughly trained to be neat and clean, and into habits of steadiness, regularity, and, above all, conscientiousness and thoroughness in the smallest detail. Thus there would be some foundation upon which to specialize later on if need be.

The needlework classes have shown that considerable talent has been lying dormant for want of development. The girls take readily to instruction, and the natural fascination of the work growing as they improve, they have without exception been able in a great measure to withstand the prevailing excitement of the last few months, and keep steadily to their work.

The financial success of the school depends largely on these workers, for the useful articles put out have found a ready sale, while the lace in itself would practically have no market at all. Therefore the necessity of keeping up a constant supply of needlework.

There has been great difficulty in getting the lace-workers to take their work seriously—with most, both adults and children, the idea has been that this is something to be taken up only "in their spare time," evenings, and odd minutes,

and just when they feel inclined. For business purposes this will never do, and it is also being found by degrees "not to pay," for these workers are not only unavailable for orders, but the quality of their lace cannot improve, hence they find themselves with their work useless to the school. And now they do understand that only work that is in demand can be paid for.

The number of those who now give up all or most of their time to this is on the increase, and thus orders will be much more rapidly executed. Hitherto the needlework completed in time for the mail has seldom been despatched until the one following, owing to want of the lace required. Unless general prosperity sets in very speedily there is no reason why the lace school should not continue to develop—but for this a continuance of private orders is, of course, necessary.

It is hoped that a fixed determination to be satisfied with producing nothing less than the best of its kind will in time give a character and tone to the St. Helena work which will of itself compel a steady demand.

The following figures give details of the progress made by the school during the first six months of its existence in training pupils :—

1st July, 1908. On roll : 160

Reliable workers :—			
Needlework	3		
Filet	1		
Netting	1		
		———	5
Adult Lace-workers :—			
Town	2		
Country	2		
Children :—			
Town	19		
Country	3		
		———	26
Total			31

31st December, 1908. On roll : 100.

Reliable workers :—			
Needlework	12		
Filet	4		
Netting	2		
		———	18
Adult Lace-workers :—			
Town	3		
Country	10		
Children :—			
Town	24		
Country	10		
		———	47
Total			65

H. F GIRDWOOD.

Manageress.

Government Lace School,
St. Helena.
1st February, 1909.

Sketch Map of St. Helena,

indicating the

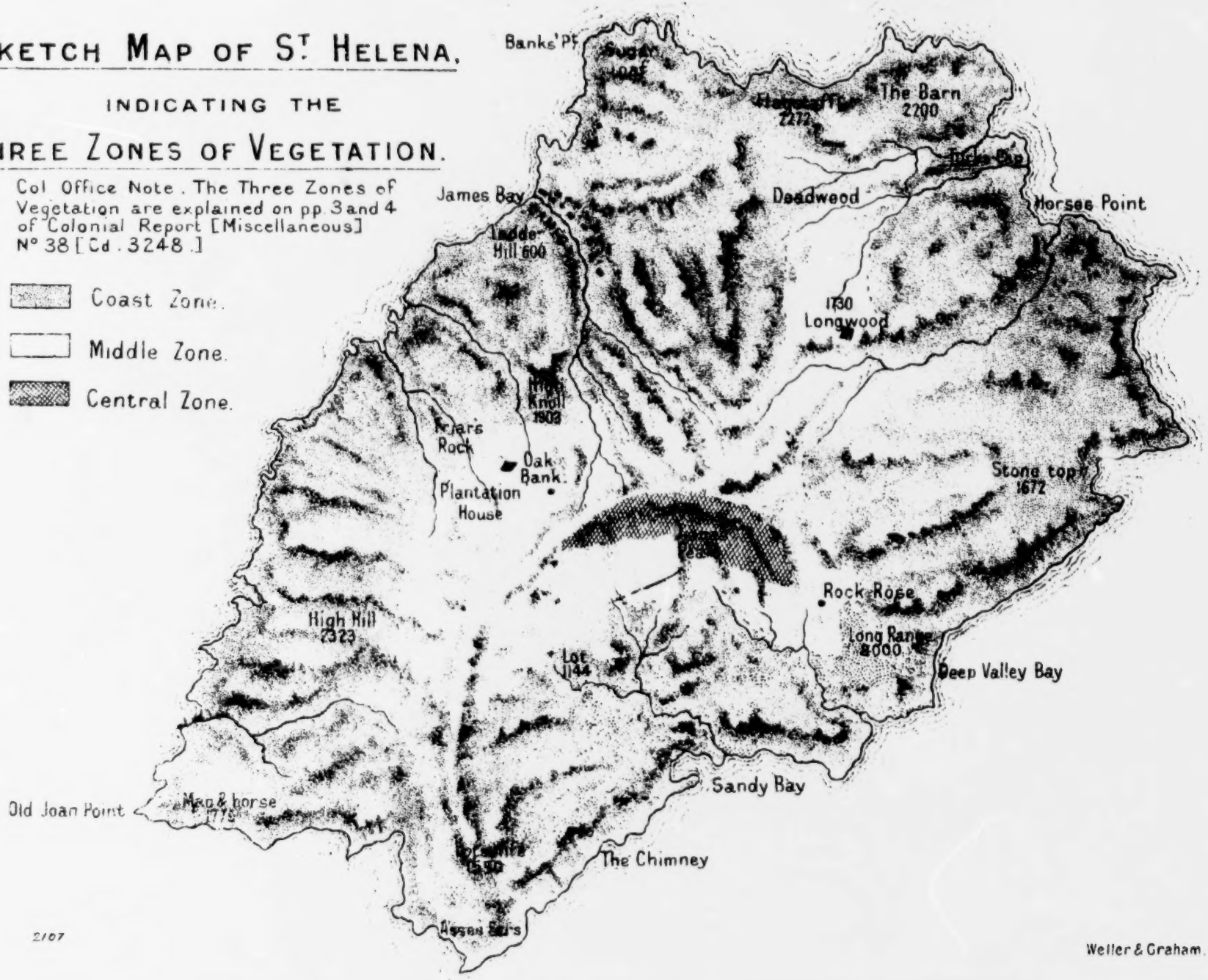
Three Zones of Vegetation.

Col Office Note. The Three Zones of Vegetation are explained on pp. 3 and 4 of Colonial Report [Miscellaneous] N° 38 [Cd. 3248.]

Coast Zone.

Middle Zone.

Central Zone.



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570	Hong Kong	"
571	Malta	1907–1908
572	British Honduras	1907
573	Gold Coast	"
574	Nyasaland Protectorate	1907–1908
575	Bahamas	"
576	Gambia	1907
577	St. Vincent	1907–1908
578	Turks and Caicos Islands	1907
579	St. Lucia	"
580	Fiji	"
581	Mauritius	"
582	Straits Settlements	"
583	Southern Nigeria	"
584	Imperial Institute	1906–1907
585	Barbados	1907–1908
586	Somaliland Protectorate	"
587	Trinidad and Tobago	"
588	Sierra Leone	1907
589	British Guiana	1907–1908
590	Grenada	1907
591	Leeward Islands	1907–1908
592	East Africa Protectorate	"
593	Bechuanaland Protectorate	"
594	Northern Nigeria	"
595	Basutoland	"
596	Swaziland	"

MISCELLANEOUS.

No.	Colony, &c.	Subject.
49	East Africa Protectorate	Veterinary Department.
50	British Colonies, &c.	Cotton Cultivation.
51	Southern Nigeria	Forest Administration.
52	South Africa	Native Education.
53	East Africa Protectorate	Veterinary Bacteriological Work, 1907–8.
54	Newfoundland	Governor's Visit to the Micmac Indians.
55	Cape Colony	Rietfontein Area.
56	Turks Islands	Salt Industry.
57	Uganda	Governor's Tour.

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1909.

COLONIAL REPORTS—ANNUAL.

No. 638.

ST. HELENA.

REPORT FOR 1909.

(For Report for 1908, *see* No. 597.)

Presented to both Houses of Parliament by Command of His Majesty.
June, 1910.

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No. 638.

ST. HELENA.

(For Report for 1908, *see* No. 597.)

THE GOVERNOR TO THE SECRETARY OF STATE.

The Castle,
St. Helena,
12th April, 1910.

MY LORD,

I HAVE the honour to transmit herewith the Colony's Blue Book, together with my Report thereon, for the year 1909.

I have, &c.,
H. L. GALLWEY,
Governor and
Commander-in-Chief.

The Right Honourable
The Earl of Crewe, K.G.,
Secretary of State for the Colonies,
&c., &c., &c.

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ANNUAL REPORT FOR THE YEAR 1909.

I.—FINANCIAL.

The expenditure for the year under review exceeded the revenue (including the grant-in-aid) by £266 16*s*. 2*d*. I regret this fact, but until an industry is found for the town population, and the fibre industry is fully established with a sufficient and continuous supply of leaves, the Colony's revenue cannot meet the most carefully-controlled expenditure, provided ordinary efficiency is maintained.

The revenue collected during the year amounted to £6,728 13*s*. 4*d*., which was augmented by a grant-in-aid of £2,500 from the Imperial Exchequer, making a total revenue of £8,778 13*s*. 4*d*. The revenue collected was £268 6*s*. 8*d*. less than the original estimate, and £68 13*s*. 4*d*. in excess of the revised estimate. As compared with the previous year there was a shrinkage in the actual amount collected of £1,153 8*s*. 1*d*. More than half of that decrease was due to the marked falling off in the sale of postage stamps to dealers and others outside the Colony. In 1908 the sale of stamps to non-residents amounted to £776, whilst in the year under review only £174 was realised from that source. The balance of the decrease in revenue was entirely due to the continued poverty and depression existing in the town districts, containing more than half the population of the Island. The labouring classes in those districts, especially in Jamestown, do not to any appreciable extent benefit by the fibre industry. They yet await the establishment of an industry in which they can fully participate. The nucleus of such an industry has now been established (March, 1910) in the shape of a mackerel-curing factory. The extent to which the islanders will benefit from the new industry depends entirely on the amount of mackerel to be found in St. Helena waters, coupled with the energy and industry which the islanders throw into the venture.

The chief shortfalls in the revenue as originally estimated were:—

(*a*.) "Customs": £306 5*s*. 7*d*.

Due to the decrease in the importation of dutiable articles, which brought in £389 less than in 1908. Employment was scarce in the town districts, causing a falling off in the consumption of liquor and tobacco. Further, only three British warships called at the Island during the year under review, as compared with nine in the previous year. This fact is a further explanation of the shrinkage in the sale of liquor and tobacco.

(*b*.) "Post Office": £90 8*s*. 3*d*.

Entirely due to the marked falling off in the demand for stamps by the outside public.

The only material increase in revenue over the original estimate was £114 13*s*. 4*d*. under "Fines, Fees, &c." This was accounted for by the amount received under "Hospital Fees"

and "Sale of drugs." Under these two sub-heads a sum of £227 was realised, as against an estimate of £137.

Apart from the revenue, £319 14*s*. 3*d*. was recovered during the year under review from Jamestown householders under the Drainage and Waterworks Ordinances. The majority of the householders were quite unable to pay the instalments due, and in many cases they could not even pay the interest. Several householders have petitioned the Government to take over their properties in settlement of all claims. The Government cannot entertain such requests. In the present state of the Colony's finances it is with the greatest difficulty that existing Government buildings can be kept in fair repair. Further, the majority of houses in Jamestown are mortgaged, and rents are difficult, in these hard times, to collect. Thanks to the sympathetic consideration of the Right Honourable the Secretary of State for the Colonies, the greatest leniency is shown in cases where householders are genuinely unable to pay the demands made upon them. In such cases the monies due are carried forward, and in cases of actual poverty the interest due for the year is wiped out. On the 31st December, 1909, the sum of £3,500 19*s*. 1*d*. remained due from the householders in addition to arrears in interest amounting to £70 14*s*. 1*d*.

The year's expenditure amounted to £9,045 9*s*. 6*d*., being a saving of £176 8*s*. 9*d*. on the original and supplementary estimates as approved. The expenditure exceeded that of the previous year by £940 11*s*. 11*d*. This increase was chiefly due to the following causes:—Increase of £100 to the Governor's salary; Mr. Hall's salary for part of the year, £218 17*s*. 9*d*.; Miss Girdwood's salary, £120 (as compared with £60 in 1908); £48 in establishing a leper segregation station; £60 increase in carriage of mails, due to the increased rates under the Rome Convention; £60 under "Medical," caused by an unusually large number of admissions to hospital; and £300 under "Public Works Extraordinary."

There was only one excess of expenditure over the estimate, in a total excess of £84 0*s*. 9*d*., that calls for comment, and that was £61 0*s*. 6*d*. under "Medical." This increase was chiefly due to the large number of persons admitted to hospital, and to several patients remaining under treatment for long periods. Further, a considerable amount of drugs was consumed (on repayment) by the Zulu prisoners and by the very poor, who cannot afford the exorbitant prices demanded by chemists. This fact necessitated more drugs being imported than was anticipated. Against the increase, however, the monies taken in by the Hospital were £90 in excess of the estimate, thus more than balancing the excess in expenditure.

The principal savings in expenditure under the estimate were:—

(*a*.) "Pensions," £58 14*s*. 10*d*.
(*b*.) "Customs," £78 13*s*. 2*d*.

Fewer warships called than was anticipated, thus reducing the amount estimated under the sub-head "Refund of wharfage on coal." £305 was approved and only £215 11*s*. paid out. It

is not possible to accurately estimate the amount required from year to year under the sub-head named. The refund has to be made, no matter how great the amount.

(*c.*) "Police," £43 12*s.* 1*d.*

On the 31st December, 1909, the assets of the Colony exceeded the liabilities by £619 8*s.* 11*d.*, as compared with £823 4*s.* 8*d.* on the same date in the previous year. The assets include a large sum, no less than £3,571 13*s.* 2*d.*, due from Jamestown householders (£70 14*s.* 1*d.* of which being arrears of interest) under the Drainage and Waterworks Ordinances. The overdraft with the Crown Agents on the last day of the year under review amounted to £3,846 17*s.* 11*d.*, being £1,575 2*s.* 10*d.* less than on the corresponding date of 1908. This decrease was effected by selling up-to-date Savings Bank Stock to cover withdrawals from that institution. The amount due to the Bank on the 31st December, 1909, was £16,397 0*s.* 7*d.*, whilst stock to the value (cost price) of £16,957 17*s.* 9*d.* was invested.

In addition to the £2,500 grant-in-aid of the Colony's finances, the following expenditure was incurred during the year under review under the grants named:—

	£	*s.*	*d.*
Fibre industry	229	16	4
Longwood water main	509	18	6

The accounts of the above two grants are now closed; and, in the case of the fibre grant, an unexpended balance of £228 15*s.* 11*d.* was surrendered to the Imperial Exchequer early in 1910.

The total amount expended under Imperial grants during the three years ending 31st December, 1909, was £10,712 3*s.* 4*d.*; which grants undoubtedly saved the Colony from collapse.

II.—TRADE, AGRICULTURE, AND INDUSTRIES.

Revenue.

The Customs revenue for the year under review amounted to £2,893 14*s.* 5*d.*, being £106 5*s.* 7*d.* under the revised estimate and £536 18*s.* 7*d.* less than in 1908.

There was an increase under one head only, namely, "Tonnage Dues," £165 16*s.*,—accounted for principally by the fact that dues were paid early in January, amounting to £89, on a shipment of coal and stores which arrived at the port in the last week of December, 1908. There was, too, a large shipment of coal in June, 1909. A leaky vessel also gave £24 tonnage dues.

Decreases occurred under all other heads, and were as follows:—

"Permits"—£1 14*s.*

"Wharfage"—£273 1*s.* 10*d.* Trade being at a very low ebb, merchants and others imported just about sufficient for the necessaries of every-day life. Mail steamers from England instead of bringing 120 or 130 tons of cargo monthly, as in former years, brought on an average 89 tons per month during 1909.

"Import duties"—£382 10*s.* 7*d.* This decrease was expected. Employment was scarce in Jamestown, and the labouring classes in consequence found it difficult enough to buy food. Judging by the small quantity of bonded goods cleared, tobacco and liquor were luxuries the usual consumers had to forgo.

"Warehouse rent"—£30 0*s.* 2*d.* In proportion this head shows the greatest decrease. Merchants cannot afford to keep dutiable goods in bond in these dull times, consequently they import only tobacco and liquor that command a ready sale, and clear the same almost as soon as the vessels arrive.

"Water"—£15 8*s.* Very few vessels arrived at the port in want of water. Out of 493 tuns supplied to shipping, 188 tuns were taken by His Majesty's ships.

During the year a Norwegian barque put into port in a leaky condition. After remaining here some months, part of her cargo was transhipped to a steam vessel. The total revenue derived from the two vessels amounted to £72.

Expenditure.

The expenditure for the year amounted to £597, being £136 less than in the previous year. Less coal was taken by His Majesty's ships, the refund of wharfage being £215 as against £318 in 1908.

Imports.

The total value of imports for the year under review amounted to £29,303, being £6,913 less than in 1908.

Comparative statement of principal imports for the years 1908 and 1909:—

Articles.	1909.	1908.
	£	£
Beef and pork	378	544
Beer	460	557
Butter	1,363	2,012
Cigars, cigarettes, and tobacco... ...	524	791
Chemicals, drugs, etc.	469	358
Coal and patent fuel	2,814	2,860
Drapery and dry goods	4,143	4,423
Flour	3,021	3,163
Grain, seed, and oilcake	1,194	2,435
Hardware, metals, etc.	396	1,583
Leather, boots, etc.	399	850
Machinery	118	252
Oil, paraffin	616	992
Oilman's stores	5,451	6,578
Rice	1,802	1,960
Specie	—	500
Spirits	640	835
Stationery	604	495
Sugar	2,065	2,035
Sundries	477	408
Tea	512	607
Wine	473	849

From the above figures it will be seen that, except in the case of two or three items of minor importance, there were decreases under every description of import in the year under review as compared with 1908. The large decrease in the value of paraffin oil was owing to a large shipment of that article having arrived late in December, 1908. The marked decrease under "Hardware, metals, etc." is due to the importation of pipes, tanks, and other material for the Longwood water main in 1908. The most notable falling off, and the one that points most clearly to the existing depression, is under dutiable articles, namely, wines, spirits, beer, and tobacco. The total value of such imports in 1905 (the last year in which the garrison was present for the whole year) was £6,600. In 1908 it had fallen to £3,032, whilst in the year under review the total value of those imports was only £2,097, or an average of under 12*s.* per head of the population.

Exports.

The total value of exports amounted to £7,892, being £1,207 in excess of the previous year. This increase would have been considerably larger had not the Government flax mill shut down during the last two months of the year, owing to a burst cylinder.

The principal exports, as compared with 1908, were:—

	1909.	1908.
	£	£
Fibre and tow	2,979	3,557
Sheep	868	319
Hides and skins	187	136
Potatoes	150	6
Wool	177	205
Specie	2,700	2,100

The reason for the falling off in the value of fibre and tow exported was due to two causes. In the first place, the Government mill, owing to the breakdown of the engine, was closed from the 23rd October to the end of the year, whilst the private mill (owned by Mr. Adams) shut down permanently early in the year, exporting only £100 worth of produce out of the total of £2,979. The marked increase in the exportation of sheep is satisfactory. All the animals go to the Naval Establishment at Ascension. The Admiralty are now getting considerable supplies of live stock and vegetables from St. Helena. These supplies will probably considerably increase in the near future, as the staff of the Eastern Telegraph Company at Ascension is shortly to be increased in connexion with the cable now being laid between South America and that Island.

AGRICULTURE, FORESTS, AND GARDENS.

The year under review was a bad one for agriculture. Potato seed imported in January and February gave a very poor return. In most cases the potatoes suffered from blight and rot, the latter owing to excessive rain. The second crop was, too, a partial failure, due to unusually dry weather. In spite of bad seasons, however, the crops secured were greater than the local demand, but only two small shipments were made to South Africa. Grain, root, and hay crops were below the average, owing to there being practically no rain during the last three months of the year. Stock

did fairly well, but the prices realised were most unsatisfactory. This does not apply to the large number of sheep supplied to Ascension, and referred to under Customs.

Experiments on a small scale were made during the year under review, in connection with Mr. Mosely's schemes, of growing new potatoes for the London market at a season when other countries could not supply the article, namely, in April and early May. The results were not encouraging, but the shipment made was too small to be a thorough test. The potatoes fetched from £2 10*s*. (for faulty ones) to £9 5*s*. a ton—averaging about £6 10*s*. If this latter price could be guaranteed, it would prove worth while to continue the experiments, as the growing of the crop only takes some 10 to 12 weeks of the land. About five tons of seed was put down at the end of the year under review, and should be ready by the end of March, 1910. The majority of the growers who have been able to participate in the new potato experiment have only been enabled to do so owing to Mr. Mosely's generous arrangements. That gentleman sends out the seed and boxes for packing the crop, pays the freight of the outward and homeward shipments, and arranges for the sale of the potatoes in London, and pays the growers the sums realised after deducting cost of seed, boxes, freight, etc. By this means the growers have so far been put to no initial expense except the cost of labour in sowing and gathering the crop. But for Mr. Mosely's philanthropy, the islanders, with a very few exceptions, could not, in these dull times, attempt to invest in seed potatoes for experimental purposes. They have not the money to lose in the event of the crop proving a failure. After all, the scheme at present is purely a tentative one, and with the limited area of land available for planting, there can never be very much money in it even in a good year, whilst there must be bad years, and sometimes total failures. The weather conditions in St. Helena are so variable. For instance, in November, 1908, it rained every day, whilst in 1909 there was a continued drought that month. Further, the potatoes must be gathered two or three days before the date of shipment, and fine weather is essential in order that the potatoes may be perfectly dry when packed. Now, in St. Helena it is much more likely to be raining on any one day than not. These facts show the speculative nature of the venture, and it can, therefore, be clearly understood that the cottager with his small potato patch cannot attempt, on his own pocket, to grow new potatoes for the London market. He would lose money more often than he made it, and his last state would be worse than his first. At the same time all Mr. Mosely is doing in the matter is thoroughly appreciated, and you cannot decide on suitable industries without making practical experiments. I hope the results obtained from the next shipment will at least prove that the growing of new potatoes for the London market is an industry which will commend itself to the leading farmers in St. Helena.

Whilst Mr. Mosely was at St. Helena (March, 1909) he made an experimental shipment to London of pears for cooking purposes. The market price of this fruit in St. Helena is about 6d. per 100. The shipment turned out badly, and did not realise even

the freight paid thereon. This was owing to a variety of causes:—The fruit was not properly packed, and was picked too early. The fruit should not be gathered until just before shipment, and each pear should be hand-picked. One bad pear in a box sets up fermentation through all the others. In spite of the unsatisfactory results obtained with the trial shipment, Mr. Mosely is convinced it will pay to export the article provided the growers will take the trouble to follow his instructions *re* gathering and packing. That gentleman has lately (March, 1910) sent out a consignment of boxes and packing material with a view to another experimental shipment being made.

During the year under review a trial shipment of meat was made to London under Mr. Mosely's directions. The results obtained showed that, under the most favourable conditions, bullocks' carcases would not probably realise more than £6 each, nett. The experiment, therefore, was not proceeded with. Mr. Mosely advised, as an alternative, that stock owners should salt their own beef and so, by degrees, make it unnecessary to import the salted article. The leading owners followed this advice, and results have so far been satisfactory.

The benefits derived from the "Stallion Donkeys Ordinance, 1905," are more apparent than ever. A greatly improved breed of donkey is springing up. There are now eight stallions certified for breeding purposes and five with temporary certificates, whilst only four stallions (licensed) exist in the Island of over two years of age in addition to the certificated animals.

Among Mr. Mosely's gifts to the Island is a two-year old stallion with an excellent pedigree, which he presented to the farmers with a view to improving the breed of horses in St. Helena. The horse is fairly big and heavy, with enormous bone and short in the leg. There is no doubt that Mr. Mosely's handsome present will result in greatly improving the breed of farm horses; but no matter how good the breed of a horse in St. Helena, his money value must always be low. Nobody in the Island can afford to give more than, say, £30 for a horse in St. Helena in these days, no matter what its actual value may be. St. Helena can never hope to export horses, but Mr. Mosely's sole object in sending out the stallion is in order to improve the breed and to turn out horses of a good and serviceable quality.

A fair number of young trees—chiefly Norfolk Island pines, eucalyptus, cape yew, and cedars—were issued from the Plantation nursery during the year under review. The numbers issued were not as large as in 1908 owing to the ravages of the grub, and, as far as the eucalyptus was concerned, to old seed. Owing to what was practically a drought during the last quarter of the year, large numbers of young trees were killed, some of which were planted five years ago. Some useful work was carried out by female labour under "relief works," in clearing away the overgrowth of creeper, blue weed, and other pests, in the Plantation and Alarm forests. In addition to the trees issued from the Plantation nursery, large numbers were supplied from private estates and used in planting on the hillsides

at the head of Jamestown Valley. These plantings, however, suffered very badly during the drought. The Superintendent of the Eastern Telegraph Company and his staff have, during the last two years, done a considerable amount of tree-planting, greatly adding to the appearance of what was a burnt-up locality a few years ago. In the case of the Telegraph Company's plantings, the trees are watered by means of irrigation trenches. It is the cost of watering young trees by hand, coupled with the ravages of that voracious and unpleasant animal, the goat, that makes successful tree-planting in St. Helena a difficult job.

The following sums were realised during the year under review by the sale of fruit and trees as compared with 1908:—

	1909.			1908.		
	£	*s.*	*d.*	£	*s.*	*d.*
Trees	18	15	9	13	1	0
Fruit	30	14	1	22	4	5½

The total receipts in connexion with the Government pasture lands at Botley's Bay amounted to £77 12*s.* 4½*d.*, against an expenditure of £78 12*s.* 2*d.*, as compared with £74 0*s.* 2*d.* and £72 12*s.* 7*d.*, respectively, in 1908.

At my request, my Clerk of Works made experiments with the fertilizer known as nitro-bacterine. My chief object was to ascertain whether an effective and cheap fertilizer could be found which would expedite the growth of phormium plants. The plants put down even four years ago are not yet fit to reap owing to the shortness of the leaf. This fact is much to be regretted, as it means the flax mill will run short of leaves about April, 1910, and will probably have to shut down for the remainder of the year, thus causing a serious set-back to an otherwise well-established industry. Unfortunately, no marked results were visible by treating the phormium plants with nitro-bacterine. In the case, however, of oats planted upon particularly poor soil, the crop reached a height of 4½ feet, yielding forage of excellent quality, with fine straw and heavily grained. Previous to this the crop had never grown to a height of more than 9 to 12 inches. The inventor of nitro-bacterine claims that it gives better results the poorer the soil. Further, five shillings' worth of the article is sufficient to fertilize an acre of land. In a hilly country like St. Helena, where the cost of transporting manure is prohibitive to the poor grower, the value of nitro-bacterine is very apparent. It is unfortunate, however, that the effect of the fertilizer in question is not apparent where phormium tenax is concerned. In any case, the results of one experiment do not definitely prove that nitro-bacterine is valueless as regards expediting the growth of any particular plant.

Industries.

The Colony now possesses three industries: fibre, lace-making, and fish-curing. The latter industry was not, however, established until February, 1910. Owing to the limited size of

St. Helena, no industry, even when fully developed, could ever be established on a large scale. Whatever success attends the industries now developing in the Island, and any that may in future be established, St. Helena's total exports can never be more than an infinitesimal contribution to the world's markets. St. Helena, however, is not only unable to do things on a large scale, but the isolated position of the Island—its distance from the markets of the world—is a factor which must handicap financial success. The cost of conveying produce from St. Helena to England and elsewhere is a very considerable item in the expenses of an industry. I am afraid the day is far distant when the trade of St. Helena will be large enough to make it worth while for steamship companies to compete for carrying the Island's trade. As things are now, only one line of steamers calls at St. Helena.

Fibre.—The working of the Government mill during the second year of its existence was satisfactory when one considers the abnormally low price of fibre in the London market during the first eight months of the year. In January the price was £23¾ per ton. It then fell to £20½ for two months, rising slowly to £24 in August. An improvement then set in and the price rose to £28 a ton (the highest figure reached since the mill opened) in November. By an unfortunate coincidence, however, the mill's oil engine broke down the very week in which the price of fibre reached the last figure quoted. The consequence was that only a very small shipment, the result of a few days' milling, realised the satisfactory price of £28 a ton. The breakdown of the engine was caused by the cylinder bursting, due, it appears, to a flaw in the casting. A new cylinder was cabled for, but was not delivered in St. Helena until the very end of December. Thus, the mill had shut down for over two months during a time when high prices ruled in the London market. In addition to the loss caused by missing a favourable market, the expense of replacing the cylinder was considerable. Further, the greater part of a large quantity of leaves was lost during the period the mill was shut down. These leaves, about 30 tons, were delivered and paid for, and remained in hand unstripped when the breakdown occurred. In spite of the drawbacks mentioned, the mill made a small profit on the year's working. If such a result can be obtained with low prices ruling for most of the year, and notwithstanding the loss of time and cost of repairs necessitated by the accident to the oil engine, there should be no doubt as to the future success of the fibre industry in St. Helena.

The mill worked for 39 weeks of the year, treating 905 tons of leaves, which produced 126 tons of fibre and 39½ tons of tow, returning a gross approximate value of £3,304. I say approximate, as all the fibre and tow milled had not been sold on the 31st December, 1909. The total expenditure for the year was £3,072, thus showing an approximate profit of £232 on the year's working.

My mill manager, Mr. Hall, reports that the quality of fibre was even and would compare favourably with New Zealand

"good fair." The average price realised for fibre and tow was £23¼ and £9$\frac{11}{20}$ per ton, respectively. The amount of fuel oil used during the year was 4,026 gallons, while 150 gallons of lubricating oil was consumed. The fuel oil taken over from the Imperial Government in 1907 became exhausted in June of the year under review. This necessitated the importation of the article from England at, of course, a considerably higher price. The oil recommended (Scotch lighthouse oil) necessitated the introduction of a new vaporiser to the engine. The cost of the article was considerable, and, with the cost of a new cylinder, added not a little to the year's working expenses.

The mill buildings and plant are insured in a London office for £1,000, the annual premium being 1 per cent. The actual depreciation in buildings and plant has been small, owing to the fact that repairs to the former are carried out as required, and all worn and damaged parts of the machinery are renewed from time to time.

The number of hands employed by the mill is 19. Useful and handy men are always available for an enterprise of this kind in St. Helena. The approximate quantity of water used during the year was 468,000 tons.

At the end of the year under review there remained not more than about three months' supply of leaves from the old plants put down forty or fifty years ago. At the time of writing this report (March, 1910), the leaves in question have nearly come to an end. I am very much afraid, though it is impossible to calculate with any accuracy, that the small amount of leaves fit for milling from the plants put down in 1906 will not keep the mill running for more than a couple of weeks at the outside. This means it will be necessary to shut down for probably the last nine months of 1910. I have on many occasions (in my despatches to the Right Honourable the Secretary of State for the Colonies during the last eighteen months) expressed my fears that when the leaves from the old plants became exhausted the new plantings would not be ready to reap. I regret to say my fears are only too well founded. The abnormally slow growth of the new plantings is the one factor that prevents the fibre industry from becoming fully and firmly established. I am of opinion that the slow growth is due generally to poor soil, and in some areas to want of sufficient moisture as well. Once the leaves are fit to reap there will be no question but that periodical reapings will take place every three years. There is no fault to find with the fibre in these new leaves. The fault lies in their short length. My manager informs me that it does not pay to mill leaves under six feet in length. It takes the stripper-keeper the same time to pass a 12-foot leaf into the stripper as it does to pass a 4-foot one. With the former length, six tons of leaves a day can be easily dealt with, whilst with the shorter leaf, however, only about 2½ tons a day can be handled. In both cases the same amount of labour is employed, and the engine consumes the same amount of oil. I have from the very start of the mill always looked forward with apprehension to this "dead season" in the

industry. Such a season was inevitable and must necessarily prove a serious set-back to an enterprise which has been well started against not inconsiderable odds. Once, however, the new plantings are fit to reap, the industry will be established on a sound footing, and will then put an end to any anxiety as to the welfare of the country community. The old phormium plants, which have kept the mill going for over two years, put out new leaves very quickly, and will always be ready for reaping every three years.

When the leaves of the new plantings are fit to reap, and a sufficient and continuous supply of the article is available, it will then be necessary to erect another two mills. As far as I can see at present, only one private mill is likely to be erected. If it is intended to fully develop the industry, it will be, in my opinion, necessary for the Colonial Government to establish a second mill somewhere in the vicinity of Plantation. This, however, is a matter for future consideration.

Mr. Hall's services were available as manager of the mill throughout the year under review. He leaves the Colony in April, 1910, after completing three years' engagement under the Colonial Government. Curiously enough, the termination of Mr. Hall's engagement about coincides with the finishing up of the supply of mature leaves and the consequent necessity of having to shut down the mill for a period. Mr. Hall will be succeeded as manager by Mr. H. J. Broadway, who has had the advantage of 2½ years' training under that gentleman. Once the "dead season" is passed the prospects of the fibre industry in St. Helena are decidedly encouraging.

Lace-making.—The progress made in this industry during the year was very marked, and was entirely due to the capable and energetic management of the Government Lace School by Miss Girdwood, coupled with the valuable and ready assistance and advice rendered by Mrs. Ord Marshall. The School was established on the 1st July, 1908, and so by the end of the year under review it had been in existence 1½ years. The following figures give the School's transactions during that period:—

	£	*s.*	*d.*
Taken over from late Lace Association ...	154	13	3
Colonial Government contributions... ...	120	0	0
Sale of work	513	16	6
Donations	57	16	6
Bank interest	4	3	0
Total	£850	9	1

Payments.—Cost of maintenance £718 7 4

The above figures show a cash balance in hand of £132 1*s.* 9*d.* on the 31st December, 1909. In addition to this, on the same date the value of goods ordered and delivered but not paid for, and of unsold articles, amounted to £99 8s. 6d., the cost of making of which had all been paid for during the year under review.

Of the progress made during the year by the workers and pupils, my manageress reports:—

"Since the beginning of the year there has been a strong and steady current of feeling making for improvement amongst the workers. The idle and worthless have gradually dropped off, while all those who are industrious and painstaking have remained to give character and tone to the quality of work turned out. The interest increases and helps to keep the girls steadily working against their strong natural inclination not to do more than absolutely necessary to supply their wants for the time being. This, in future, may make for thrift and a desire to lay by for emergencies. At present, however, their earnings hardly permit of such a possibility.

A few of the more proficient workers are now setting the pace for the rest, and making it possible soon to arrange prices more in accordance with trade requirements. The workers are divided into three classes:—

1. Those who during the past year have proved themselves capable, steady, and reliable, and who can be depended on to fulfil orders within a given time.

2. Others who are showing promise of this, doing good work, but fitfully, so far.

3. Those who have lately begun, and others who may not turn out satisfactory.

The first class numbers about 70, 25 of whom are needle-workers (embroidery and filet lace). Of the other 45, half the number are school children who can work only after school hours and on Saturdays, and can thus put out less than half the work of an adult.

The numbers therefore stand thus:—

Adult lace workers	22
„ needle workers	20
„ needle lace (filet)	5
Children lace workers	23
Total number of reliable workers	70
Those promising well	35
Others, uncertain	30
	135

A few months ago, owing to urgent requests from distant country districts, lace classes were started at Blue Hill and Sandy Bay. These are doing well, and, being obliged to overcome some difficulties in their desire to learn, the workers are developing a grit not possible to those more favourably situated, and should thus very soon prove a strong reinforcement to the best class of workers in the Lace School."

It will be seen from the above that there are 70 trustworthy workers fitted to execute orders to the satisfaction of the manageress, whilst another 35 promise well. These figures show a marked advance on those of 1908. On the 31st December of that year there were only 18 reliable workers and 47 others of all grades. I consider the progress made to be very creditable both to the workers themselves and to their excellent instructress.

Towards the latter part of the year under review, experts in the lace trade in London pronounced the St. Helena article to be as good as any of its kind in the public market. At the request of the Colonial Office, Mrs. Ord Marshall, always ready to further St. Helena's interests, kindly undertook to go thoroughly into the matter of trade prices with a view to deciding whether the time was yet ripe for the Government Lace School to deal with retail houses in London. Mrs. Ord Marshall fur-

nished a most useful and comprehensive report on her investigations, but I am sorry to say it was found that at this early stage of the industry it is not possible for the women and girls of St. Helena to attempt to compete with the peasants of countries such as Russia, Belgium, and the Far East, where a living wage is so much lower and where the children commence to make lace from early childhood. It must be remembered, too, that the hours of work and, to some extent, the mode of living in St. Helena are very similar to those that obtain in England. Even at present prices, only a few workers earn from 6*d*. to 9*d*. a day. Those that do so probably work for a good ten hours a day. Until lately, the price paid to the workers for lace has allowed a profit of 20 per cent. to the school, whilst on needlework (including lace trimmings, &c.) the profit has been about 30 per cent. In spite of this, the profits do not yet bring in sufficient income to allow the school to become a self-supporting institution. This fact alone prevents the school from dealing with the retail houses, who demand reductions of present prices varying from 30 to 50 per cent. Although the school is not yet in a position to deal with the trade, every effort is being made to overcome the obstacles in that direction. The system now being followed is one of mechanical production, namely, by keeping certain workers on to one pattern of lace. It will no doubt be possible for the workers, owing to increased familiarity with the work, to turn out in the near future a larger quantity of lace in a given time than has been at all possible in any earlier period in the progress of the industry. Until quite lately none of the workers have shown either the technical ability or the incentive to turn out work at a more than ordinary rapid rate. This, naturally, arises from the fact that, being so far from the centre of things, no idea of the necessity to compete in the general race has hitherto entered into the question as far as the great majority of the workers are concerned. The St. Helenian is, owing to the influence of heredity and climate, proverbially easy-going. It will, therefore, only be possible by judicious and careful management to gradually induce the workers to do considerably more work for the same money in the same time. I am glad to say capital progress is being made by Miss Girdwood in this direction. If a spirit of competition among the workers of similar patterns could be secured, it would no doubt assist in lowering prices. The terms offered by the retail houses means that the workers must increase their output by 40 per cent. for the same pay. This is the line on which the school is being run. The idea is to teach the workers by degrees to understand the situation, so that they may gain the necessary incentive which will ensure the lace industry becoming a permanent and successful institution in St. Helena. The rapid turning out of stereotyped trade patterns of lace will be one of the chief objects aimed at by the school in future.

The school's prospects of future success are decidedly encouraging. During the year under review very satisfactory progress was made in every way; and I am confident that before very long the school will be able to support itself and do without the

grant of £120 a year which the Colonial Government has paid towards the school's finances since January 1st, 1909. Mrs. Ord Marshall has kindly arranged for the school to have a stall at the Crystal Palace Exhibition in May to July, 1910. I have great hopes that the results of the stall will be to more widely advertise the Island lace and needlework, and to gain a good name in the trade and with the public generally for the St. Helena article.

My thanks are due to Mr. L. Tucker and Mr. G. Liddy for their services, as honorary secretary and honorary treasurer, respectively, during the year; which services were given gratuitously. Mr. Mosely generously presented the School with all its furniture, which had previously been held on loan. He also provided the funds necessary to furnish the school's windows with sun blinds. Nor were these the only benefits conferred on the school by Mr. Mosely. That gentleman authorised me to arrange for daily classes in lace-making during 1910, to be held at his expense, so as to allow the school children of Jamestown to be thoroughly trained in the art. These classes are proving a great success, and are under Miss Girdwood's direct personal supervision. Special classes are also held by Miss Girdwood and her assistants in the country districts. Every effort is being made to give every girl a chance of becoming a useful member of the community.

Fisheries.—The Island's fisheries are at last to be exploited, thanks to the generosity of Mr. A. Mosely. That gentleman arrived in St. Helena early in the year under review, and remained in the Colony for a month, in order to personally ascertain what could be done towards introducing new industries among a distressed community. The most important of Mr. Mosely's schemes was the establishment of an industry which would solve the unemployment problem in Jamestown, the men of which community cannot benefit to any material extent from the fibre industry. The girls already have the lace-making industry, which is making excellent progress; but the Jamestown labouring men, for the most part, live a precarious hand-to-mouth existence, and for the last three years have had a hard struggle to keep the wolf from their doors. Mr. Mosely at once saw that the remedy lay in the Island's fisheries, and that if he could find a market for salted mackerel and albacore (tunny) the vexed problem would be partly, if not wholly, solved. He, accordingly, had several barrels of mackerel prepared, and one or two of albacore, and himself took them to New York. In that city he found there were many difficulties in connection with the mackerel trade, the chief drawbacks being:—

(*a.*) The St. Helena mackerel are of the variety known as blue-black bull's-eye, and, although occasionally caught off the American coast, they are there considered distinctly inferior to the other varieties, and are accordingly more difficult of sale;

(*b.*) the tremendous variation in the market price. When Mr. Mosely was in New York, mackerel were fetching

very little more than the cost of barrel and freight, the reason being that in the previous year there were enormous local catches, the largest catch on record from Norway, and heavy ones from Ireland. This naturally so depressed the market that the fish was almost unsaleable and a large surplus was left over from the last catch. On the other hand, the new local catch, just commenced, had up to the time Mr. Mosely left New York been practically a failure, with scarcely enough fish to supply even the "fresh" market. That meant that prices would soon rise again. The above facts made it clear to Mr. Mosely that he would have to handle the mackerel business on a somewhat speculative line. His great object, however, is to ensure regular work for the Islanders. He therefore decided to see the matter through, looking for the good seasons to recoup losses incurred in the bad ones. He offered to pay 3*d*. a dozen all the year round for mackerel delivered at the proposed factory in Jamestown, irrespective of the local or market price of the article. In August I called a meeting of the fishermen and others interested in the matter and put Mr. Mosely's proposals before them. The price offered (a very generous one) was unanimously accepted, and the men assured me of their readiness and intention to fish regularly and keep the factory supplied to the best of their ability. I, accordingly, was able to send a reassuring telegram to Mr. Mosely which enabled him to proceed with his arrangements. He decided not to hurry matters and went most carefully into every detail, which included *inter alia* the engagement of an expert salter and packer from Norway and the arranging of freight rates with the Union-Castle Steamship Company. These matters took some time to settle, but I am glad to say that a mackerel-curing factory was opened in Jamestown on February 26th, 1910.

As regards albacore, Mr. Mosely found that the salted article was a thing unknown even among Italians, but that a considerable market existed for tinned tunny in oil. That gentleman, however, went very fully into the probability of finding a market for the salted article among the Italian community in America, but found that the introduction of a new article was fraught with many difficulties. Mr. Mosely, fortunately, is not easily defeated. He got into communication with a firm of fish merchants and curers in England, with a good connection in America and all over the world, with the result that one of the partners (Mr. H. Dunn), of the firm in question, arrived in St. Helena on February 21st, 1910, with the object, on behalf of Mr. Mosely, of studying the question on the spot, so that it may be decided whether the quantity of albacore is sufficient, and of the right species and quality, to warrant the erection of a factory in St. Helena. Mr. Dunn remains in the Colony for five weeks, and, should his report be a favourable one, Mr. Mosely will be prepared to still further confer benefits upon the island community by establishing the

tunny curing industry. The fish (cooked) would be put up in tins, in oil, and not salted in barrels. This mode of packing will, I understand, employ more labour than would be required to deal with the salted article. The employment of as many hands as possible is the main object. I am very much afraid that the St. Helena tunny will prove to be of a lower grade of quality than the Mediterranean article, which commands such a ready sale among the Italian communities of the world. There is probably, too, not a very large supply of the fish in St. Helena waters. This, however, can only be proved by experience. As regards the quality, this. too, can only be decided after Mr. Dunn returns to England and submits samples of the tinned article to experts in America and elsewhere. Even if of a lower grade of quality, it may be possible to find a market for the St. Helena tunny, especially as the quantity exported would be normal. The question of quality also applies to the St. Helena mackerel, which is of a lower grade, and, in addition, the fish are, as a rule, small. In fact, it is probable that a large percentage of the St. Helena mackerel delivered at the factory will be almost too small to find a ready market. For the reasons given, I am not very sanguine of there being more than a bare profit in even the mackerel industry. It costs as much to clean, salt, pack, and ship an inferior article as it does to handle fish of the highest quality. Mr. Mosely, however, does not insist on a profit. He will be satisfied if the industry pays its way.

It will not be out of place here to give a few particulars in connection with the island's fisheries. All fish in St. Helena are caught with hook and line, a somewhat tedious process when large quantities are required. Nets are practically unknown. In fact, it has been proved that the St. Helena mackerel will not look at a net. I refer to nets of ordinary colour—black or brown. Possibly a light-coloured net (as near the colour of the water as possible) might prove efficaceous. There is a remarkable variety of fish in St. Helena waters, the chief being: mackerel, albacore, bull's eyes, old wives, silver fish, stoney brass, soldiers, barracoota, bonito, cavally, yellow tail, bill fish, and cole fish. Of the above the cole fish is by far the most palatable, but very few are caught. Albacore and mackerel are the cheapest fish and form the chief diet of the poorer classes. Mackerel range from 1*s.* to 2*d.* per dozen. They are not nearly as good eating as the English mackerel. During the last nine months of the year under review 3,579 albacore and 6,130 dozen mackerel were landed at Jamestown. These fish were caught by nine boats. The fishermen, however, only catch what they think they can sell; that number being reached, they cease their labours. The quantity of the different fish varies with the season of the year. In the summer months enough fish could be caught in a week to provide for local consumption for probably a whole year. At other times there is a scarcity of the article, and prices go up. With more boats, and more honest labour, I am convinced the islanders could obtain considerably more benefit from their fisheries than they have in the past. There are three kinds of fishing: ground fishing, deep-water fishing, and float fishing. The first extends from

the shore outwards until a depth of 40 fathoms is reached. The second extends from 40 to 100 fathoms; whilst "float fishing" refers to surface-feeding fish, such as mackerel. All fishing is done in small open boats. Consequently, except in calm weather, fishing is chiefly confined to the lee side of the Island. Hitherto only sufficient fish for local consumption has been caught. It is not, therefore, possible at this stage to calculate the extent of the supply of fish in St. Helena waters. If the Islanders, however, wish to get full value out of their fisheries, they must adopt a more energetic and industrious attitude than has been apparent in the past.

When Mr. Mosely visited St. Helena he was accompanied, among others, by Mr. J. T. Cunningham, M.A., F.Z.S., whose services he had engaged in order to report on the St. Helena fisheries. Mr. Cunningham has furnished his report to the Colonial Office, and the document has been published as Colonial Report, Miscellaneous, No. 69.

Miscellaneous.—During the year under review Messrs. James Morrison & Company, Limited, of London, surrendered the concessions granted to them by the Colonial Government in 1907 covering the manganese deposits in St. Helena, after experts had pronounced those deposits as not of sufficient value to make exploratory work advisable.

The idea of cultivating the black wattle in the Colony has also been abandoned, Mr. John McDougall not being satisfied with the results obtained from the experimental plots laid down. Experience proves that the wattle will thrive in St. Helena, but practically all the suitable land for the culture thereof has already been taken up in connection with the fibre industry. The experimental plots laid down by Mr. McDougall in 1907 are situated in districts where the soil is poor and where sufficient moisture is lacking.

Shipping.

Although 59 ships called at St. Helena during the year under review, as compared with 53 in 1908, the aggregate tonnage of those vessels was less than in the previous year, the figures being 159,915 and 184,454 respectively. This falling off in tonnage was owing to fewer warships calling in 1909 than in 1908. Of the 59 vessels that called, 45 were British. Thirty-three steamers called during the year. Of these 25 were mail steamers, out of which number no less than 11 called on a Sunday and six during the night. Consequently only about a third of the mail steamers benefited the trading community. In addition to calling ships, 16 passing vessels were boarded by licensed traders, as compared with 17 in 1908. The tonnage of vessels entered and cleared at the Customs with part cargo for St. Helena was 159,766 gross during the year under review, as against 156,482 gross in 1908. Among the calling ships were 3 British and 1 German warships, also 4 American whalers.

The Norwegian barque "Mathilde," with a cargo of coal and machinery, bound for Saldhanha Bay, put into the port in distress. The vessel encountered heavy gales with high seas, causing her to leak badly and preventing her from continuing her voyage south.

Part of the cargo was transhipped to the British steamship "Ingerid," which vessel towed the leaky barque to the port of destination.

My Harbour Master had occasion to render valuable assistance to the Italian sailing ship "Olona," which was becalmed off the Island. This vessel drifted within a few feet of striking the rocks in Rupert's Bay, and had to be towed clear by row boats. The occurrence was unusual, as the wind and current are almost invariably off the land on the north side of the Island. It is entirely owing to Mr. Bruce's prompt action that the vessel did not strike the rocks. Had she done so, she would have become a total wreck, there being no tug to render assistance in cases of this kind.

III.—LEGISLATION.

Three Ordinances were enacted during the year under review; two in connection with Public Expenditure and "The Customs Amendment Ordinance," making it lawful for the Governor-in-Council to exempt from Customs dues any materials imported into the Colony for the establishment and development of industries.

Two Proclamations were issued: one relating to the game season, and the other bringing into operation "The Road Tax Ordinance, 1908."

Among the Regulations made by the Governor-in-Council during the year was one under Ordinance No. 2 of 1889, entitled "An Ordinance to promote Public Health in St. Helena." This Regulation provided for the segregation of persons suffering from leprosy, a leper station having been established in Rupert's Valley.

A King's Order-in-Council, dated 15th February, 1909, was promulgated, regulating all appeals to His Majesty in Council from the Supreme Court of St. Helena.

IV.—EDUCATION.

The aggregate number of children attending the schools during the year under review was 639 (322 boys and 317 girls), being 26 less than in the previous year. The number of schools was eight (three being Government institutions), as against nine in 1908, the Benevolent Society having closed their town school.

A higher standard of work has been attained, particularly in the Government Senior School. The increased experience of the younger teachers enabled the work to proceed more smoothly and steadily, though the economic condition of a portion of the town community has been such as to have had some adverse effect upon the educational progress of a few of the children, whose

parents were unable to provide them fully with the necessaries of life. It is noticeable, however, that the parents, as a whole, take a greater interest in the education of their children than heretofore. There still remains, however, the unfortunate tendency of parents to take away their children from school as soon as they reach the limit age, 14 years. In the case of girls, this is not of much consequence, as they have the lace-making industry to employ and interest them. The boys so removed, however, become, with very few exceptions, young loafers, and soon forget most of what they learnt at school. The morals of such boys must necessarily deteriorate and they become mere warts on society. The St. Helena youth is sadly handicapped, I allow, in that there is no industry in which he can participate. For this reason I always commend the wisdom of the few parents who allow their sons to remain at school until they are at least fifteen years of age. Mr. Mosely hopes to introduce an industry for the boys of the Island. In the meantime it is a pitiful sight to see youngsters loafing about without any aim or interest in life at a time when they have not the strength or stamina to perform manual labour to any extent.

Though economy has had to be practised owing to the want of funds, much was done in the Government schools during the year under review. Schemes of elementary work, having for their main object the cultivation of the intelligence and observation of the children, and the inculcation of healthy, physical, and moral habits, are being carefully and successfully carried out. Financial considerations alone have forbidden the establishment of instruction in handicrafts for boys, though in the case of girls this aspect of the educational problem has been solved to a certain extent by systematic instruction in lace-making and needlework under the personal supervision of Miss Girdwood, who is indefatigable in her efforts to help the girls of the Island in every way in her power. The impossibility at present of teaching the boys handicrafts and of providing for the girls instruction in practical household subjects, is to be regretted, especially as the theoretical work attempted in this direction is thus deprived of most of its value.

Mr. Tucker's classes for pupil teachers were well attended during the year under review by not only the Government teachers (whose attendance is compulsory) but by some of the Hussey Charity School teachers. The students, as a whole, are reported to have been most regular in their attendance at the classes and to have evinced much aptitude and considerable enthusiasm. The progress made in the general subjects of instruction, as well as in theoretical and practical teaching, has been exceedingly good. Six teachers (five being Government) completed a four years' course of instruction in December, 1909, and received special certificates granted by the Board of Education after examination, five being placed in the first class and one in the second. Several of the teachers referred to are anxious to take a higher course of instruction. It is hoped that this may be arranged for.

Careful attention was paid in the Government schools during the year under review to the teaching of hygiene, the greatest

importance being attached to the subject. The aim has been to give the pupil teachers as wide a view of the subject as time and circumstances have allowed, and so fit them for intelligently presenting to the children, in as practical a form as possible, the main principles of the laws of health. In addition to ordinary instruction, criticism hygiene lessons were given throughout the year to pupil teachers, and the principle insisted upon that what the children are taught in this subject they should never forget but carry home with them and practise daily. My Colonial Surgeon visited the Government Schols at the end of the year and reported very favourably on the sound methods employed in teaching simple hygiene to the children. Doctor Arnold noticed that the children displayed an intelligent knowledge of the reasons underlying the laws of health, and that there was no doubt as to their interest in the subject. This happy result is largely due to the interest taken in the health of the children by their teachers. I am glad to say that the importance of hygiene as a subject for instruction is gradually being recognised in some of the non-Government schools. At the same time I am afraid that neither those responsible for the curriculum followed in those schools, nor the teachers as a whole, sufficiently recognise the full importance of the subject. In the Government Schools the very reverse is the case. These latter schools, however, are run under modern and systematic lines, and the children who attend them necessarily reap greater benefits than do those who attend the church schools.

On the 1st January, 1910, a re-distribution of the teaching staff of the Government Schools took place, all being under the supervision of Mr. Tucker. By this new arrangement every school will benefit without incurring any additional expense. In fact, a small saving will be effected.

V.—GOVERNMENT INSTITUTIONS.

A.—Hospitals.

There were 164 admissions to the hospital during the year (as compared with 137 in the previous year), of which 87 were males and 77 females. This is the largest number admitted since 1900. There were 7 deaths, being a rate of 4·2 per cent. of admissions, 6 cases of tubercle were treated, of which 5 were imported, namely: 2 Zulus and 3 seamen. There was only one case of diphtheria, as against 10 in 1908. There were no admissions under enteric fever.

A small fund inaugurated three years ago to assist poorer patients in defraying hospital charges, and known as the Hospital Emergency Fund, has proved of great service. At a time when so many of the population are without work and lack the nourishment indispensable to recovery from illness or injury, the importance of such a fund is very apparent, which fund is formed entirely from voluntary contributions.

Over 3,000 out-patients were treated during the year under review, being about three times the number treated in 1908.

Chloroform was administered in 44 cases, the majority being minor surgical operations.

The nursing staff performed their duties as usual in the most satisfactory manner.

B.—Savings Bank.

At the end of the year under review there were 143 depositors in the savings bank, being two less than in the previous year. The total deposits during the year amounted to £1,582, as against £2,241 in 1908.

£3,191 was withdrawn from the bank during the year, as against £4,871 in the previous year. Although the withdrawals in the year under review were £1,680 less than in 1908, they were practically the same in each year as regards the general community, as in 1908 £1,700 was withdrawn by depositors who left the Island for good that year.

The withdrawals exceeded the deposits by £1,609. This fact was due to the depression in trade which existed, especially in Jamestown.

The bank's revenue for the year amounted to £599, and the expenditure to £470, thus showing a profit of £129 on the year's transactions. The figures in 1908 were £664, £508, and £156 respectively.

On the 31st December, 1909, £16,397 remained due to depositors, exclusive of interest for the year. Against this sum, stock to the value (cost price) of £16,957 is invested. The bank's reserve must continue to decrease until the industries lately established in the Island are more fully developed.

VI.—JUDICIAL STATISTICS.

Criminal Statistics.

Supreme Court.—Only one case, as in 1908, came before the Supreme Court during the year, the charge being assault occasioning actual bodily harm. The prisoner was sentenced to hard labour for one year.

Police Court.—There were 135 cases dealt with in this court during the year under review, being an increase of 13 over the previous year. This increase was more than accounted for by an unusual number of cases of offences by seamen. For the first time for many years several seamen were sent to gaol for disobeying the lawful command of the master of a British vessel.

Twenty-nine of the cases before the court were of a civil nature, 18 of which were for non-payment of poor-rates. There is no doubt that the maintenance of a poor-house, much needed as that institution is, is a severe tax on a very large number of poor ratepayers in these hard times. In many instances it is a case of the poor keeping the poor.

There were 106 criminal cases, none being of a serious nature, during the year under review. Of these cases no less than 31 were under the Road Tax Ordinance and 20 under the Education Ordinance, leaving only 55 genuine criminal offences.

Prisons.

The number of prisoners committed to the gaol during the year was 53 (including 11 women), 15 more than in the previous year. This increase, as explained elsewhere, was more than accounted for by offences among seamen. The daily average number in gaol increased from 0·8 in 1908 to 3·15 during the year under review. Twenty-five men committed to prison under the Road Tax Ordinance partly accounted for this increase, that Ordinance not having been in force prior to 1909. On the 31st December, 1909, one prisoner remained in gaol, being a man sentenced to five years' penal servitude in 1908. The cost of maintaining the gaol during the year amounted to £94 2*s*. 2*d*., being a decrease of £23 3*s*. 1*d*. as compared with 1908.

The Zulu prisoners continue to be most quiet and orderly. They give no trouble whatever. One of the two Natal warders was sent back to that Colony during the year, and his place taken by a local warder. Two Zulu prisoners died during the year; one from fatty degeneration of the heart, and the other from cerebral hæmorrhage apparently caused by a sunstroke. The cost to the Natal Government for maintaining the prison during the year was £865, as against £924 in 1908.

Police Force.

The force performed its duties satisfactorily during the year. In addition to the 135 cases dealt with by the Police Magistrate in his Court, 123 trivial cases were disposed of by the police without going into Court. The post of Inspector of Police was abolished early in the year under review.

VII.—VITAL STATISTICS.

On the 31st December, 1909, the estimated civil population was 3,553, as compared with 3,517 on the same date a year previous. In addition to the civil population on the date given were two seamen in hospital, one Natal warder, and 21 Zulu prisoners, making a total population of 3,577, an increase of 19 over 1908.

There were 79 emigrants and 43 immigrants during the year, as compared with 72 and 55 respectively in the previous year. Among the emigrants were 14 females, who proceeded to South Africa as domestic servants. Although the emigrants exceeded the immigrants by 36 (the excess in 1908 was 18), the increase in the civil population is accounted for by the births (not including three stillborn) exceeding the deaths by 69.

There were 99 births (including three stillborn) during the year under review, as compared with 88 (including four stillborn) in 1908. The illegitimate births in 1908 and 1909 were the same, namely, 27. It is to be hoped that, as better times come to the labouring classes, their morals will improve.

The death-rate among the civil population was abnormally low during the year under review, being 6·4 per 1,000, as com-

pared with 9·6 per 1,000 in 1908. There were only 23 deaths among the civil population during the year. Of these, six were children under one year of age, and five of persons between the ages of 80 and 90 years. Excluding those 11, only 12 deaths occurred among the Islanders between the ages of one and 80 years, a rate which works out at 3·4 per 1,000. Looking at the fact that St. Helena is situated in the tropics, the above figures appeal to one as being a very remarkable testimony to a wonderful climate. The death-rates among the civil population for the last eight years are as follows:—

1902	34·8
1903	20·2
1904	14·4
1905	14·5
1906	11·9
1907	9·4
1908	9·6
1909	6·4

It will be seen that the death-rate in eight years has decreased by no less than 28 per 1,000. This wonderful result is not a little due to the greatly improved hygienic conditions under which the Islanders live to-day as compared with a decade ago.

The number of marriages solemnized during the year was 17, as against 19 in 1908. The marriage-rate among the Islanders has decreased from 9·4 per 1,000 in 1903 to 4·7 per 1,000 in 1909, showing that poverty tends to decrease the marriage-rate among the labouring classes. This fact, no doubt, accounts for the large percentage of illegitimate births.

The general health of the Island during the year under review was good, and the abnormally low death-rate of 6·4 per 1,000 of the civil population is the lowest ever recorded in St. Helena. In fact, the death-rates for the last three years have all been lower than any previously recorded.

There was only one death between the ages of one month and one year, and one between the ages of one year and five years. The infant mortality, that is, the deaths of infants under one year (six in number) represents a rate of 62·5 per 1,000 calculated on the number of registered births (96). To the uninitiated this probably appears a high rate. In 1909, however, the infant mortality in England and Wales was 125 per 1,000.

During the months of May and June influenza assumed epidemic proportions. Though many were severe, the bulk of the cases were mild. There were 35 cases of pneumonia, three deaths resulting from that complication. One was the case of an old woman over 84 years of age, and the two others were over 60 years of age with constitutions enfeebled by long-standing poverty. In November and December, during the drought, several cases showing injurious effects from the sun's rays came under treatment. During a prolonged period of dry weather the direct solar heat was unusually intense. The most severe case was that of a healthy man, aged about 45, who had had fever for 10 days after exposure to a hot sun. The symptoms came on suddenly, and death followed during convalescence, and

from a sudden cerebral hæmorrhage and before the patient had left his bed. My Colonial Surgeon considers these cases as worthy of note, as the sun in St. Helena rarely causes inconvenience, and therefore its occasional potency is apt to be disregarded. The death-rate from phthisis during the year per 1,000 was two.

With regard to the general aspect of public health, my Colonial Surgeon reports:—

> Frugality in eating and drinking has been a necessary consequence of the straitened economic condition of the Islanders, and to this factor might be safely attributed a considerable share in the reduction of the death rate. The mind of the average inhabitant of this Island has always been swayed with the idea, in regard to disease, that it was the direct infliction of Heaven, and little or nothing on the individual's part could avail to avert sickness. This idea has been persistently combated in the course of some years' daily contact with the sick and sound, and it is not altogether unwarrantable to conclude that the slow infiltration of a more reasonable view as to the influence of diet, and all the habits of everyday life, in preventing disease, has had beneficial results. The practical application of the principles of hygiene in the schools has undoubtedly improved the standard of health amongst the children.

I fully concur in the views expressed above. There is no question in my mind, nor in that of Doctor Arnold, that the efforts made during the past few years to promote health among the Islanders by establishing healthier habits of living, of eating, and of dwelling, and by cultivating a taste for fresh air, have had the most beneficial results. Hygiene and sanitation in St. Helena to-day are of a higher standard than they have ever before been in the history of the Colony. In fact, until a few years ago, the subject of simple hygiene was unknown amongst the labouring classes of the Island. The death-rate in England and Wales for 1909 was 14·5 per 1,000, being the lowest rate ever recorded. Against this the St. Helena rate for that year was 6·4 per 1,000. This comparison gives a fair idea of the excellence of the Island's climate.

Although a great improvement is discernible among the poorer classes in St. Helena in connection with the combating of disease and the putting into practice the simple rules of hygiene, amongst the more ignorant of the population, and even amongst those who have had some education, a belief in witchcraft, or the power of the evil eye, still survives. Different ailments are not unfrequently attributed by the victims of this belief to a spell having been cast upon them by some person evilly disposed towards them. A few mischievous persons have traded on this deplorable ignorance and credulity, and under the pretence of removing the spell (or "poison" as it is called) by means of potions or herbs, have received much ill-gotten gain. It is to be hoped that the improved standard of education now found in the Island's schools will render the minds of the rising generation an unsuitable soil for such pernicious beliefs. My Colonial Surgeon reports that the harmfulness of the evil referred to has been shown in numerous instances where people drifted into a condition of bodily and mental wretchedness, believing they were under a spell, when in reality no disease of any kind was present. Doctor Arnold further states that many ordinary ailments attributed by

the victims to "poison" or evil influence, have dragged on for weary months when by proper medical treatment they would have been speedily cured. That such beliefs should exist in the midst of any community calling itself civilised is, to say the least of it, most discreditable. The quacks who have enriched themselves on the credulity of an ignorant community have, in the past, carried on their nefarious trade unchecked, this fact being due to their victims being afraid to complain when they found no benefits resulting from the treatment received, and after, perhaps, paying exorbitant fees to the quacksalver. The belief of those victims that their medical adviser (*sic*) could cast a spell over them, should they expose his tricks, is implicit. An Ordinance has now (1910) come into force which will put an end to the quackery referred to. Under the Ordinance it is unlawful for any person to practise medicine or surgery or to prescribe any medical or surgical treatment in St. Helena for fee or reward unless he is possessed of one or more of the qualifications which would entitle him to practise medicine or surgery in the United Kingdom. I trust that the legislation referred to will prove sufficient to thoroughly safeguard the ignorant from being in future robbed and tricked by those who, in the past, have practised their trade with impunity.

The expenditure under "Medical" for the year amounted to £1,223 as against £1,197 in 1908.

The medical care of the whole population during the year under review again fell entirely on Dr. Arnold's shoulders. On more than one occasion he should have laid up, but could not possibly do so. I am glad to say that provision is made in the Colony's Estimates for 1910 for an allowance to the Colonial Surgeon to cover (in part) the salary of an assistant. I cannot testify too highly to the manner in which Dr. Arnold has performed his duties single-handed for over three years. His devotion to duty is thoroughly recognised and appreciated by the whole community.

The sanitary condition of Jamestown was uniformly satisfactory throughout the year. There were no prosecutions under the Public Health Ordinance.

A case of leprosy in a child aged seven years was notified and reported on. The child contracted the disease from his grandfather, who died in 1908. The grandfather had suffered many years from leprosy. Suitable quarters were erected in Rupert's Valley for the segregation of the child on a site well suited for isolation. The child is cared for by his grandmother, who voluntarily undertook the duty, and has been under control and treatment since August, 1909.

There were 71 successful vaccinations performed during the year.

Climate.

Meteorological Station, Hutt's Gate.

Barometer.—The mean pressure for the year was 28·132 inches, 28·134 inches being the mean in 1908.

Temperature.—The mean temperature was 59·8° as against 58·8° in the previous year. The absolute maximum was recorded

on the 9th December, when the reading was 75·5°. In 1908 75·0° was the maximum reading; this was on the 5th May of that year. The lowest maximum was registered on 22nd August, being 64·1°. The absolute minimum, 49·9°, occurred on the 9th September, the lowest reading for the previous year having been 50·5° on the 11th August. On referring to past records I find it most unusual for the maximum temperature to be recorded in December. It usually occurs between February and April. The duration of bright sunshine during the last two months of 1909 must have reached a somewhat high figure. I regret I am not able to give figures, as the station at Hutt's Gate is not equipped with the necessary instruments to record either such duration or the heat of the sun.

Rainfall.—The total rainfall for the year under review was 42·36 inches, being an increase of 3·04 inches over 1908. The maximum fall occurred on the 3rd May, and measured 1·07 inches, as against 1·22 inches on 27th January, 1908. The number of rainy days totalled 267, being six more than in the preceding year. The last three months of the year were exceptionally dry. During that period only 3·71 inches were registered on 48 days, whilst during the corresponding period of 1908 7·93 inches on 75 days was the record. November of the year under review was a particularly dry month. Only ·460 inches of rain fell, and that spread over a period of 12 days. In 1908 the fall for that month was nearly four inches, and it rained every day.

Wind.—The mean force for the year was 2·2, which is equivalent to 14 miles, the velocity in 1908 being practically the same. The windiest months were August and September. On the 11th and 21st of the former, and 7th of the latter month, a velocity of 36 miles was reached. Six calm days were recorded, five days being the number in 1908.

The following table gives the direction for the year:—

S.S.E.	208
S.E.	129
E.S.E.	6
E.	1
S.	15
Calm	6

Jamestown.

Temperature.

	1908.	1909.
Mean	71·9°	72·7°
Absolute maximum ...	80·0° on 17th April	80·0° on 1st April.
Absolute minimum ...	65·0° on 14th Sept.	65·0° on 1st Sept.

Rainfall.

	1908.	1909.
Total	6·31 inches	7·43 inches.
Number of rainy days	86	56
Maximum fall ...	0·42 inches on 26th May.	0·43 inches on 1st March.

Private Stations.

Rainfall

Oak Bank.	1908.	1909.
Total fall	40·85 inches	45·52 inches.
Number of rainy days ...	238	216.
St. Paul's Vicarage.		
Total fall	29·81 inches	30·72 inches.
Number of rainy days ...	134	134.

A record of rainfall is now being kept at Government House and by four residents in different parts of the Island. It will, therefore, in future be possible to give a more accurate idea of the marked difference in rainfall in the several districts of the Island.

VIII.—POSTAL, TELEGRAPH, AND TELEPHONE SERVICES.

Revenue.—The revenue derived from the Post Office for the year amounted to £609 11*s.* 9*d.*, being a decrease of £680 8*s.* 6*d.*, as compared with the previous year. This abnormally large decrease was entirely due to the small amount derived from the sale of stamps as compared with 1908, only £505 16*s.* 10*d.* being received from this source, as against £1,201 9*s.* 1*d.* in 1908.

Expenditure.—The year's expenditure amounted to £395 5*s.* 10*d.*, being £13 19*s.* 3*d.* less than in 1908.

Mail Matter.—The following figures give the mail matter dealt with during the year under review as compared with 1908:—

From the United Kingdom, South Africa, Ascension, and foreign countries:—

—	1909.	1908.
Bags of mails	220	223
Parcels	2,131	2,045
Registered articles	943	1,108
Insured letters	7	11

To the United Kingdom, South Africa, Ascension, and foreign countries:—

	1909.	1908.
Bags of mails	134	169
Parcels	483	580
Registered articles	1,915	2,148
Insured letters	1	5

Money and Postal Orders.—Transactions under this head were as follows:—

	1909.			1908.		
	£	*s.*	*d.*	£	*s.*	*d.*
Money Orders received...	761	7	2	1,132	7	9
Postal ,, ,, ...	1,691	13	4	1,532	16	3
Money Orders issued ...	3,033	4	10	2,812	12	2
Postal ,, ,, ...	1,510	3	4	1,243	0	2

The above figures for the year under review show that the public sent away through the Post Office £4,543 8*s*. 2*d*. during the year, and in return received only £2,453 0*s*. 6*d*.—not a satisfactory state of affairs, but one which must continue until the fibre, lace-making, and fishery industries reach a more advanced stage.

Commission received on money and postal orders for the year amounted to £66 7*s*. 2*d*., being an increase of £6 15*s*. 9½*d*., as compared with 1908.

The telephone system continues to work satisfactorily, and is as indispensable as it always must be in an Island shaped as is St. Helena.

Of the three signal stations in the Colony only one is occupied, that at Ladder Hill, on the north side of the Island.

IX.—GENERAL OBSERVATIONS.

Roads.

£400 was expended during the year under review in maintaining the chief rural roads in repair, being an increase of £40 on the previous year. During the year under review provision was made in the Colony's estimates for this service, whereas in 1908 the expenditure was met by an Imperial grant. A number of under-road drains were laid. These drains go a long way towards preventing the abnormal damage to the roads which used to occur during heavy falls of rain before those drains were in existence. The idea is to lay down numbers of such drains each year until the whole system of roads is thoroughly drained thereby.

In March of the year under review "The Road Tax Ordinance, 1908," was brought into operation by Proclamation. Under that Ordinance every male person between the ages of 18 and 60 years, pays an annual road tax of 3*s*. The amount realised from the tax was £93 18*s*., the collection of same costing £3 18*s*. 3*d*. Of the 659 males between the ages given above, 626 paid the tax, 25 were committed to prison for non-payment, and eight were exempted from payment by the Governor under Section II. of the Ordinance. The collection of the tax presented no difficulties, the inhabitants adopting a most reasonable attitude in the matter, in spite of the great depression among the labouring classes still prevalent. The imposition is always referred to as the "foot tax" by the Islanders.

Land Grants and General Value of Land.

The value of land remains about the same but will increase as the fibre industry develops. There were no grants of land during the year, and only one transfer of ownership took place. Government rents amounted to £814 during the year under review, as against £808 in 1908.

Rate of Wages and Cost of Living.

The cost of living during the year under review was somewhat higher than in the previous year. Meat and vegetables remained about the some price and were cheap. Groceries, however, were dearer all round, with the exception, perhaps, of sugar. When there were a good number of "passing ships," the bumboatmen obtained from those vessels beef, pork, grease, &c., in exchange for Island produce, and the price charged was low and within the reach of the poorest. Now, however, there is only an occasional "passing ship," which means that everything is in the hands of the importers. The imports of foodstuffs in any quantity are entirely confined to two firms. Again, farthings are unknown in St. Helena. Consequently, articles that cost, say, 2½*d*. a pound (sugar, for instance) would cost the purchaser 1½*d*. per half-pound instead of 1¼*d*. The poorer classes (a large majority) who can only purchase the necessaries of life in small quantities at a time, are, therefore, the losers owing to the absence of the farthing as a coin.

The principal necessaries which rose in price during the year under review, as compared with 1908, were:—

	1909.	1908.
Rice	4½*d*. per 2 lbs.	3½*d*. per 2 lbs.
Flour	3*d*. per lb.	4½*d*. per 2 lbs.
Lard	11*d*. per lb.	8*d*. per lb.
Bread	3½*d*. per loaf	3*d*. per loaf.
Salt pork	8*d*. per lb.	6*d*. per lb.
Salt beef	6*d*. per lb.	5*d*. per lb.

It will, therefore, be seen that to purchase 1 lb. of rice and ¼ lb. of lard the buyer had to pay 2½*d*. and 3*d*. respectively instead of 2¼*d*. and 2¾*d*. Prices varied at different times of the year, but the above figures were those ruling for the greater part of the year under review. The cost of living was probably from 20 to 25 per cent. higher than in 1908.

The rate of wages remained unchanged. The poverty in Jamestown continued to cause genuine anxiety. How some of the town people manage to exist is past comprehension. The establishment of the fishing industry, provided the people take advantage of the opportunity offered to them, should remedy the evil.

Public Works of Importance carried out in whole or part during the Year.

The work of laying the new 3-inch cast-iron water main in the Longwood District was completed during the early part of the year under review. The total cost of the work amounted to £1,929 13*s*., of which £509 18*s*. 6*d*. was expended during 1909. The total amount expended showed a saving of £70 7*s*. on the grant made by the Imperial Government for the work referred to. The expenditure incurred during the year under review included the cost of taking up and melting down the old lead main which had been in use for about 97 years. The market price of lead, which fluctuates enormously, had fallen to £12 7*s*. 6*d*. per ton. Two years previously, when I originally calculated the cost of

laying the main, less the amount which the sale of the old main would probably realise, the market price of lead was £18 odd a ton. The nett amount realised for the old main, after deducting freight and London charges, was £444 19*s.* 11*d.*, which sum was surrendered to the Imperial Exchequer. The actual cost, therefore, to the Imperial Government of the new main worked out at £1,484 13*s.* 1*d.*

Departments and Institutions.

Public Works Department.

The expenditure of the Public Works Department for the year amounted to £1,934, of which £300 was under "Works Extraordinary." The expenditure in 1908 was £1,169. The increase is chiefly accounted for by the fact that in 1908 there was no expenditure under "Works Extraordinary"; and the cost of maintaining the rural roads in that year was met by an Imperial grant, whereas in 1909 a sum of £400 was included in the Colony's Estimate for that service. Further, £31 was expended in the year under review in erecting and maintaining a leper establishment in Rupert's Valley. Consequently the recurrent expenditure under other heads than those named remained practically the same as in the previous year.

£150 of the expenditure under "Works Extraordinary" was in relief works, and was a genuine necessity. The remainder of the £300 under this head was expended in improvements to the Jamestown water supply, additions and repairs to the school-houses, and in purchasing stores (cement, iron, etc.), to enable the ordinary annual repairs to buildings being carried out. An additional class-room was erected at the Government Senior School, which has greatly improved the accommodation of that building, and added in no small degree to the comfort and well-being of the teachers and scholars.

The expenditure under the principal sub-heads in recurrent expenditure, as compared with 1908, was:—

	1909.	1908.
	£	£
Forests and gardens	149	137
Scavenging	101	103
Rural roads	400	360 (grant)
Water supply	170	175
Jamestown streets	60	65
Leper establishment	31	—
Repairs to buildings...	402	376

Against the £400 spent on the maintenance of the rural roads, the "Road Tax" brought in a sum of £90.

The Poor Board's revenue for the year amounted to £848 against an expenditure of £847. The figures in 1908 were £800 and £790 respectively.

The revenue of the public market for the year under review amounted to £116, being £11 in excess of 1908. The expenditure was £80 as compared with £70 in the previous year.

Miscellaneous.

The event of the year which caused the greatest interest, in an Island where interesting events are few and far between, was the visit of Mr. Alfred Mosely, C.M.G. As I stated in my Report for 1908, that gentleman visited the Island with a view to seeing what could be done towards bettering the lot of the Islanders by establishing industries. Mr. Mosely's first idea was to set up vegetable-canning and fish-curing factories, and with this end in view he brought out three experts with him. Mr. Mosely, however, very soon saw that the vegetable-canning scheme was not practicable. Putting aside the small area of agricultural land available, the poorness of the soil, the variable and uncertain weather conditions, and the difficulty that would be experienced in getting rid of the many grubs and caterpillars that infest the garden lands, it was quite clear the cost of transporting the vegetables from the country to the factory in Jamestown would be prohibitive. There was only one opinion in the matter. As regards the mackerel-curing factory, I have dealt with this subject under the head of "Industries" earlier in this Report. Mr. Mosely remained in the Island for a month, and, as I anticipated, he found it necessary to exercise great patience in making his investigations. He was particularly struck with the apathetic and indifferent attitude of the people; and soon saw that neither gratitude nor self-help were conspicuous among the virtues of the labouring community as a whole. This fact was not encouraging, but fortunately for St. Helena it did not prevent Mr. Mosely from doing all he could to help a people who would not, or could not, help themselves. The fishermen particularly seemed to stand aloof on Mr. Mosely's arrival, and almost appeared to look upon his efforts with a certain amount of suspicion! They possibly, in their ignorance, thought that Mr. Mosely wished, in the first place, to make a good thing out of the fisheries for himself, and after that to think of the people—whereas the intelligent members of the community recognised at once that Mr. Mosely's real aim was not to make any profit for himself out of any industry he may succeed in establishing, but, when profits do come, to devote them to the Islanders' benefit. In order to establish industries, Mr. Mosely had expressed his intention of advancing the necessary monies to start the ventures, and, in fact, to take all risks of loss entirely on himself. Although the fishermen never put themselves out to assist Mr. Mosely, they had sufficient intelligence to come gradually to learn that that gentleman's efforts were solely directed to the Islanders' future benefit. It was probably difficult for the fishing folk to properly grasp the reasons which prompted a gentleman quite unknown to them to all of a sudden come on the scene as a sort of "fairy godmother." Perhaps, too, in an uneducated community, it was almost inevitable that the suspicious side of the fishermen's nature would assert itself in the first instance. I am happy to say that a thaw of those suspicions set in before Mr. Mosely left the Island, a year ago; and there is no doubt now that Mr. Mosely is gratefully recognised by the community generally as a public benefactor. At the same time one must be prepared to see new industries

develop only slowly. The apathetic and unenthusiastic nature of the Islanders is a serious bar to quick progress.

I have already, earlier in this report, referred to other benefits conferred on the community by Mr. Mosely. Should that gentleman succeed in introducing an industry which will give employment to boys as they leave school, a great stride forward will be made in generally improving both the industrial and social conditions of the community. Mr. Mosely is in hopes of finding such an industry. The initial expenses incurred by Mr. Mosely in connection with his efforts on St. Helena's behalf run into a considerable figure. In addition to Messrs. Cunningham and Dunn, the fishery experts, Mr. Mosely employed the services of a market-gardener from England (who remained in the Island for a month) to report on the Island's soil and on many other points in connection with the growing of vegetables. This latter expert came out in connection with the vegetable-canning scheme, which scheme (as I surmised in my report on the Colony for 1908) proved to be impracticable. In addition to the experts named, Mr. Mosely also brought out with him a salter and packer to prepare the samples of mackerel and albacore which he took to America. Further, he has engaged a Norwegian salter and packer for a few months in order to place the lately established mackerel factory on a proper footing. The chief point in connection with the financing of Mr. Mosely's schemes for the betterment of the Islanders is that he bears all losses, while any profits are to be used for the benefit of the people. Needless to say, before such profits become available for that purpose, the monies advanced by Mr. Mosely must be repaid.

I take this opportunity of placing on record in a public document the cordial thanks of the Colonial Government and of the community generally to Mr. Mosely for so generously and practically coming to St. Helena's help in her hour of need.

The economic situation remained about the same during the year under review as in the previous year, which meant that no improvement took place in the conditions under which the Jamestown community fought for existence. The existing depression in the town districts can only be lightened, and eventually removed, by the establishment of an industry by which the men can earn a living wage. The women, or rather the girls, have the lace-making industry, from which, by industry and honest effort, they can earn monies fairly regularly and so be in a position to assist their parents in keeping the home together. On the other hand, the majority of the men have still to depend on the shipping, coupled with odd jobs and occasional labour on the roads, to earn a living. The regular fishermen, of course, are exceptions; but they are very few in number. As I stated under the head of "Fisheries" in this Report, the nucleus of the fishing industry has now been established by Mr. Mosely (February, 1910) in the shape of a mackerel-curing factory. Commencing on a small scale, the industry, provided the Islanders will wake up and make an honest effort, should

gradually but surely develop into an undertaking which will not only provide a certain source of wage-earning to the Jamestown folk, but also to any Islanders who care to take up fishing as a regular employment. The want of sufficient boats, and of the funds with which to purchase them, is a difficulty to be overcome before the industry can be developed on a satisfactory scale. With his usual generosity, Mr. Mosely has expressed his readiness to supply boats to the people as soon as he is satisfied they honestly intend to take up the industry and keep the factory supplied with fish. The cost of the boats would be recovered by Mr. Mosely by easy instalments. If the albacore should become an article of export (on which point I am unable at this stage to express an opinion) a large number of additional boats will be necessary.

Until the three industries now established are further developed, no material change can take place in the economic situation, nor can the Colony's revenue be materially augmented. I have already, under "Industries," referred to the set-back about to take place in the fibre industry owing to the slow growth of the plants put down during the last three or four years. The Island girls cannot yet compete in the open market with the peasants of other countries where the lace-making industry has been long established. These handicaps to progress will, however, soon, I trust, be overcome; and in the meantime patience and honest effort are the most necessary factors to employ in placing the new industries on a sound footing, even if only on a small scale.

Progress of any kind in St. Helena is undoubtedly very slow. The people of the Island appear to be helpless to make any practical effort to contribute to their own advancement. Lack of initiative, heredity, and a conspicuous absence of capital, account for this state of affairs more than anything else. In the palmy days of the Island, when St. Helena was an important port of call for shipping, and when there was a garrison, the Islanders, whose wants are very small, had sufficient to live on what was, more or less, thrown at them. This particularly refers to the town population. The absolute necessity for strenuous labour, as far as earning an ordinary living went, not being imperative, this fact, coupled with a genial climate, has produced an easy-going people who do not appear to know even how to begin to help themselves. The St. Helenian, too, is sadly handicapped by his environment. The very large majority of the inhabitants have never gone beyond the confines of the 47 square miles which comprise their Island home. They know little or nothing of the outside world, and, consequently, do not take much, if any, interest in other than purely local affairs. The result is not surprising: the vision of the average Islander is very limited and his mind unduly cramped. Against these unfortunate drawbacks, the patience and good behaviour of the people under adversity is most marked. The Island's chief hope of progress lies in the rising generation, and I am glad to say the outlook in that direction is fairly bright, thanks to modern educational methods. There is no doubt, however,

putting aside the temperament of the people generally, the poverty of the Islanders is the greatest handicap to both progress and self-help. The hand-to-mouth existence led by a large majority of the people can only be thoroughly understood by those on the spot. At the same time the Colony's outlook is decidedly brighter than it was three years ago. It is, however, the slow rate of progress which is the most disheartening factor in the whole business. The establishment of industries in a place where industries have never before existed must necessarily be a slow and trying task; but I must confess that one's efforts to assist St. Helena to rise from her ashes have used a good part of one's store of optimism and philosophy, although sufficient of the former trait remains to allow me to continue to assert that St. Helena is capable of progress, and the Island is on the way to rid itself of part of the depression which has overshadowed it for the last few years. Less than three years ago St. Helena was without an industry, whilst to-day the Island possesses three industries. All, certainly, are on a small scale and are in the budding stage, yet all are capable of development. Those industries have practically been presented as gifts to the Island, and it is now for the Islanders themselves to contribute their share, by working out their own salvation in striving to make the industries permanent successes. This end, however, can only be accomplished by honest endeavour and steady labour on the part of the working classes and by the community generally combining together for the common good. The traits most lacking among the Islanders, from top to bottom, are public spiritedness and altruism. Without them no community can prosper, in the true sense of that term, to any appreciable extent. The people of St. Helena have yet to learn that permanent prosperity is assured only to those communities whose members work together for the greatest good of the greatest number of persons.

H. L. GALLWEY,

Governor and
Commander-in-Chief.

The Castle,
St. Helena,
1st March, 1910.

Sketch Map of St Helena.

indicating the

Three Zones of Vegetation.

Col. Office Note. The Three Zones of Vegetation are explained on p.p. 3 and 4 of Colonial Report [Miscellaneous] N° 38 [Cd. 3248.]

Coast Zone.

Middle Zone.

Central Zone.

COLONIAL REPORTS.

The following recent reports, &c., relating to His Majesty's Colonial Possessions have been issued, and may be obtained from the sources indicated on the title page :—

ANNUAL.

No.	Colony, &c.	Year.
603	Ashanti	1908
604	Ceylon	„
605	Weihaiwei	„
606	Seychelles	„
607	Jamaica	1907–1908
608	Colonial Survey Committee	1908–1909
609	Gambia	1908
610	Malta	1908–1909
611	Sierra Leone...	1908
612	Turks and Caicos Islands	„
613	Gold Coast	„
614	Bechuanaland Protectorate	1908–1909
615	Bahamas	„
616	St. Lucia	1908
617	Hong Kong	„
618	Fiji	„
619	Nyasaland	1908–1909
620	Barbados	„
621	Trinidad and Tobago	„
622	Straits Settlements	1908
623	Somaliland	1908–1909
624	Mauritius	1908
625	St. Vincent	1908–1909
626	Jamaica	„
627	Swaziland	„
628	Grenada	1908
629	Leeward Islands	1908–1909
630	Southern Nigeria	1908
631	British Honduras	„
632	British Guiana	1908–1909
633	Northern Nigeria	„
634	Basutoland	„
635	East Africa Protectorate	„
636	Uganda	„
637	Weihaiwei	1909

MISCELLANEOUS.

No.	Colony, &c.	Subject.
62	Uganda	Cotton Industry.
63	Imperial Institute	Gums and Resins.
64	Uganda	Botany and Forestry.
65	Do.	Sleeping Sickness.
66	Gold Coast	Forests.
67	Southern Nigeria	Mineral Survey, 1905–6.
68	Do. do.	do. 1906–7.
69	St. Helena	Fisheries.
70	Colonies	List of Laws relating to Patents, Trade Marks, &c.
71	Imperial Institute	Foodstuffs.

COLONIAL REPORTS—ANNUAL.

No. 675.

ST. HELENA.

REPORT FOR 1910.

(For Report for 1909, *see* No. 638.)

Presented to both Houses of Parliament by Command of His Majesty

June, 1911.

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Sketch Map.

No. 675.

ST. HELENA.

(For Report for 1909, *see* No. 638.)

THE GOVERNOR TO THE SECRETARY OF STATE.

The Castle,
St. Helena,
9th March, 1911.

SIR,

I HAVE the honour to transmit herewith the Colony's Blue Book for the year 1910, together with my Report thereon.

I have, &c.,

H. L. GALLWEY,
Governor and
Commander-in-Chief.

The Right Honourable
Lewis Vernon Harcourt, M.P.,
Secretary of State for the Colonies.
&c., &c., &c.

(20124—2.) Wt. 31959—459. 1125 & 85. 6/11. D & S. A 2

ANNUAL REPORT FOR THE YEAR 1910.

I.—FINANCIAL.

(A.) Revenue.

The revenue for the year under review amounted to £6,806 3*s.* 1*d.*, excluding a grant-in-aid from the Imperial Exchequer of £2,500. The revenue collected exceeded the estimate by £516 3*s.* 1*d.*, and showed an increase of £527 7*s.* 9*d.* over the revenue of the previous year.

The improvement over 1909 was due to the presence of the Eastern Telegraph Company's cable repairing ship "Britannia," St. Helena becoming that vessel's headquarters in May of the year under review. Against the benefits derived from the presence of the vessel named, the fibre industry received a serious set-back owing to the Government mill having to shut down for over half the year. Further, the mackerel-curing industry proved a failure on account of the abnormally small supply of that fish. Both these matters are dealt with in their proper places in this Report.

The excess in revenue over the estimate was practically confined to two heads, namely: "Customs," £344 3*s.* 4*d.*, and "Post Office," £211 8*s.* 11*d.* The former was due to the presence in port of the cable repairing ship "Britannia," and the latter to a larger sale than anticipated of stamps to the outside public.

The only short-fall worth mentioning in revenue under the estimate was £46 6*s.* 6*d.* under "Licences, Taxes, &c." This was chiefly due to no game licences being taken out, owing to pheasant shooting having been closed during the year under review.

(B.) Expenditure.

The year's expenditure amounted to £9,596 1*s.* 11*d.*, being an increase of £550 12*s.* 5*d.* over that of the previous year, and £549 4*s.* 6*d.* in excess of the original estimate.

(C.) Assets and Liabilities.

On the 31st December, 1910, the Colony's assets exceeded the liabilities by £186 11*s.* 4*d.*, being a decrease of £422 17*s.* 7*d.* as compared with the previous year, due to the deficit in the year's transactions. The assets include a balance of £3,370 due from Jamestown householders under the Drainage and Water Works Ordinances. I regret to state that a large part of that amount can never be recovered. Further, £30 odd of the arrears in rents will have to be written off, as the defaulting tenant, an old man, 80 years of age, has lately died and left his family penniless.

The Colony's investments on the last day of the year had a

market value of £13,394 10*s.* 10*d.*, representing stock to the value of £14,835 13*s.* 1*d.* Stock to the value of £2,122 4*s.* 8*d.* was realised during the year in order to cover withdrawals from the Savings Bank. The only debt owed by the Colony is the overdraft to the Crown Agents which amounted to £4,627 13*s.* 6*d.* on 31st December, 1910.

(D.) Currency.

The amount of specie in the Colony was depleted during the year owing to the persistent exportation of that article by Messrs. Thorpe & Sons. The firm named exported no less than £5,300 during the year. Against this exportation, specie to the value of £3,655 was imported.

The closing down of the Government flax mill in May naturally lessened the cash circulation. Against this, however, were the monies spent in the Colony by the officers and crew of the cable repairing ship "Britannia."

II.—TRADE, AGRICULTURE, AND INDUSTRIES.

(A.) Trade.

Revenue.

The Customs revenue for the year under review amounted to £3,344 3*s.* 4*d.*, being an increase of £450 8*s.* 11*d.* over the previous year. An increase occurred under every head, with the exception of "Tonnage Dues," which showed a decrease of £49 15*s.* as compared with 1909.

The increases were:—

(*a.*) "Wharfage," £267 18*s.* 7*d.*
(*b.*) "Import Duties," £181 7*s.* 1*d.*
(*c.*) "Warehouse rent," £2 13*s.* 3*d.*
(*d.*) "Water," £47 14*s.*

All the above increases were chiefly due to the presence of the cable ship "Britannia."

Expenditure.

The expenditure for 1910 amounted to £764 17*s.*, being £167 14*s.* 2*d.* in excess of 1909. The refund of wharfage on coal supplied to His Majesty's Navy during the year was £392, as against £215 in 1909, thus more than accounting for the increase in 1910.

Imports.

The total value of imports in 1910 amounted to £37,570, being an excess of £8,267 as compared with 1909.

Comparative statement of the principal imports during the years 1909 and 1910:—

Articles.	1909.	1910.
	£	£
Beef and pork	378	829
Beer	460	592
Butter and margarine	1,363	1,014
Cigars, cigarettes, and tobacco... ...	524	575
Chemicals, drugs, &c.	469	310
Coals and patent fuel	2,814	4,910
Drapery and dry goods	4,143	3,894
Flour	3,021	3,620
Fish and fruit industry...	—	195
Grain, seed, and oilcake	1,194	1,300
Hardware, metals, &c.	396	270
Leather, boots, &c.	399	310
Machinery	118	391
Oilmen's stores	5,451	5,684
Oil, paraffin	616	496
Rice	1,802	2,097
Specie	—	3,655
Spirits	40	732
Stationery	604	740
Sugar	2,065	2,708
Sundries	477	432
Tea	512	357
Wine	473	583

It will be seen from the above table that there were increases under almost every head in 1910, as compared with the previous year. Specie had to be imported to meet large exports of that article by a private firm. A few items only showed a decrease in value as compared with 1909. For example: Paraffin oil, £120, accounted for by the closing down of the Government flax mill in May of the year under review; and tea, £155, which is very difficult to account for—probably a large reserve was on hand from the previous year.

Exports.

The total value of exports for the year under review amounted to £9,234, being an increase of £1,432 over 1909, and is accounted for chiefly by the exportation of £5,300 in specie, as against £2,700 in the previous year.

The exports include sealskins to the value of £1,000, which were landed at St. Helena by a small sealing vessel from Gough's Island and shipped to England. The fact of the flax mill only running for half of the year under review naturally considerably affected the export trade.

The principal exports, as compared with 1909, were:—

	1909.	1910.
	£	£
Fibre and tow	2,979	1,369
Hides and skins	187	52
Old metal...	741	61
Cattle	90	329

	1909. £	1910. £
Sheep	868	616
Wool	177	164
Potatoes	150	136
Mackerel	—	177
Specie	2,700	5,300

(B.) Agriculture, Stock, Forests, and Gardens.

The year was an average one as far as agriculture was concerned. All crops were satisfactory. The supply of produce was more than equal to the demand, and prices ruled low in consequence. Potatoes suffered in the western district of the island from excess of rain. Hay was a fair crop, and more than usual was secured in good weather. All stock did well, and the demand for cattle and sheep from the Naval Establishment at Ascension prevented a serious overstocking of the pasture lands.

Four hundred and seventy-nine boxes of new potatoes and 378 boxes of pears (cooking) were shipped to London during the year. The prices realised were not encouraging; but, on Mr. Mosely's advice, further shipments will be made in 1911.

With a view to the islanders being able in the near future to produce locally-cured ham and bacon, Mr. Mosely generously presented some of the leading farmers with pedigree Berkshire pigs.

A fine breed of donkeys is springing up in the island, and as each year passes the excellent results of the "Stallion Donkeys Ordinance" of 1905 becomes more apparent.

About 1,300 young trees were issued from the Government nurseries during the year under review. Much damage to trees, especially at Plantation, resulted from high winds in August and September. Trees to the value of £17 18*s*. 6*d*. were sold to the public (for firewood) during the year, as against £18 15*s*. 9*d*. in 1909. The sale of fruit from Maldivia garden amounted to £20 17*s*. 3*d*., being £9 16*s*. 10*d*. less than in the previous year.

(C.) Industries.

1910 was not a satisfactory year as far as the progress made in two out of the three industries was concerned. The lace industry alone continued to make excellent progress, and the prospects thereof are most encouraging. The set-back experienced in the fibre industry, and the comparative failure of the fish-curing industry, will be referred to in their proper places in this report. Mr. Mosely is still endeavouring to discover and introduce an industry that will provide employment for the St. Helena youth immediately he leaves school, and so save a large number of the rising generation from growing up to be wasters and loafers. The girls of the island are well provided with a congenial industry in the shape of fine needlework and lace-making. It is the boys of St. Helena who are sadly handicapped through no fault of their own, and for whom it is imperative that some employment should be found that will convert

them into useful and industrious members of the community. There is no doubt that the islanders, of both sexes, are very handy, and readily take to any new handicraft that they may be put to. In fact, the successful manner in which the girls of the island have taken to lace-making has called forth very high praise from a leading expert in the trade in London. The greatest difficulty in introducing any industry into St. Helena is the want of capital. The hopes of the rising generation of island boys are now centred in Mr. Mosely, who has already done so much for St. Helena, and who, as I stated above, is doing all he can to find a suitable industry, and the necessary capital to sustain it, for those boys.

Fibre.—In May of the year under review, the supply of mature flax leaves fit for milling became exhaused, which necessitated the mill being closed down. This serious set-back to the industry had long been foreseen. Given good soil, flax leaves should be fit to reap from three to four years after the plants are put down. With the very poor soil existing in St. Helena it was soon, however, clear that the growth of the plant here was very slow compared to what one is led to understand is the case in New Zealand. Plants put down five years ago are still too short in the leaf to be milled at a profit. The fibre of such leaves is good, but leaves must reach a certain length in order that a sufficient quantity may be put through the stripping machine in a given time, if no loss is to be incurred on the transaction. I entered fully into this matter in my Report on the Colony for 1909 (page 13).

The mill was open during 21 weeks of the year, including five weeks in October and November when the mill was run solely in order that Field Marshal His Royal Highness the Duke of Connaught could see the industry in all its stages. 411 tons of leaves were treated during the year, producing 46½ tons of fibre and 13 tons of tow, of a net value of £1,183 10*s*. 1*d*. The total receipts for the year amounted to £1,327 7*s*. 5*d*., against an expenditure of £1,380 14*s*. 8*d*. There was, at the same time, fibre and tow unsold on hand on the last day of the year valued at, approximately, £128 net. It is not possible to make any comparison between the mill's transactions of 1910 as compared with 1909, as in the former year the establishment was only open for six months as against ten months in 1909. The average price realised for fibre and tow during the year was £24 and £11 per ton, respectively, being an improvement on 1909. Since June, 1910, the fibre market has been in an unusually depressed condition, and it is probable that had the mill remained open during the whole of that year a financial loss would have resulted.

Mr. A. W. Hall, the New Zealand expert, who had managed the mill from the start, left the Colony in April of the year under review, on the expiration of his three years' engagement under the Colonial Government.

Hopes as to the future success of the fibre industry have been considerably damped owing to the unexpectedly slow growth of the young phormium plants. This drawback to progress was never anticipated by either the farmers of the Colony or by the

New Zealand expert. There is no doubt that the soil in St. Helena is unusually poor, and to ensure quick growth it is imperative to manure the plants. This, however, cannot be done in St. Helena, owing to the hilly nature of the country, except at a prohibitive cost. As far as can be seen at present, the only alternative, in order to allow the mill to deal with shorter leaves, is for the growers to accept a lower price for their produce. The transport difficulty handicaps the industry to an abnormal extent. However, the mill will not remain inactive longer than can possibly be helped. It remains for the growers to make some sacrifices in order to co-operate with the Government in making the industry a success. Without such co-operation St. Helena can never rise from her ashes.

Lace-making.—Most satisfactory progress was made in this industry during the year, but I regret to say that the Government Lace School is not yet a self-supporting institution. Had the school, however, been able to dispose of all its work during the year, there would have been no occasion to call upon the Colonial Government for the annual grant of £120.

The school's transactions during 1910 were as follows:—

Receipts.

	£	*s.*	*d.*
Work sold	624	16	5
Donations	25	5	0
Colonial Government grant	120	0	0
Bank interest	1	3	4
	£771	4	9

Payments.

	£	*s.*	*d.*
Salaries	160	15	0
Pay of workers...	502	6	6
Material	123	3	3
Incidental	39	17	7
	£826	2	4

The above figures show a deficit on the year's working of £54 17*s.* 7*d.*, or without the Government grant, of £174 17*s.* 7*d.* Against this, however, no less than £277 4*s.* 2*d.* of unsold work remained in hand on the last day of the year. The cash balance in the hands of the school on the date named was £77 4*s.* 2*d.*

The progress made in 1910, as compared with 1909, is best shown by the following figures:—

	1910.			1909.		
	£	*s.*	*d.*	£	*s.*	*d.*
Work sold	624	16	5	371	15	8
Pay of workers	502	6	6	274	15	0

Again, on the last day of the year 1909 goods to the value of £99 8*s*. 6*d*. remained unsold or unpaid for by customers, whilst on the same date in 1910 no less than £277 4*s*. 2*d*. worth of unsold work remained to the credit of the school.

The reason that the school's output was so far in excess of the demand for its lace and needlework is that the St. Helena article is too good, both in workmanship and material, to be able to compete successfully in the London market with inferior foreign goods of a like nature. This fact has its encouraging aspect, in so far that it is a plain proof that the island girls can be quickly trained to be clever workers. Mrs. Ord Marshall, who continues to work indefatigably in the school's interests, consulted one of the best London lace experts with a view to advancing the interests of the lace-making industry in St. Helena. The expert's opinion of the quality of the St. Helena article is most gratifying. He stated that there is now no lace in the London market, of the description made in St. Helena, which can compare with the St. Helena article, either as regards workmanship or material. This opinion was also expressed by one of the large business houses in London. The expert referred to considers the patterns turned out by the school, although good of their kind, to be quite unworthy of lace of this very fine quality and execution, for these patterns are largely used by foreign workers whose lace is inferior in make and is sold at low prices. The expert suggested that, to put the St. Helena industry on a business footing, two courses were open: either to degrade the lace now turned out and let the workers produce an inferior article which could be more quickly made and, therefore, sold at a lower price, or to adopt patterns worthy of workers of such high quality. He considered that to take the first alternative would be unwise, as it would arrest all progress; whilst the difficulty of adopting the second alternative lay in the fact that the sale of valuable lace is more restricted than that of the cheaper kinds. The expert's general conclusion was that the school was established on a most excellent basis, and that the workers were fully capable to take up more advanced work. He therefore recommended that the school should at once adopt old Italian patterns. His opinion was that if, after practice with these patterns, the workers could produce something original, a very great success for the school would result.

Needless to say, the school management lost no time in acting on the sound advice given, and Miss Girdwood has already made an excellent start in instructing the more efficient workers in the Italian patterns. These workers are most keen in their desire to excel in the making of the beautiful patterns which we all hope will bring prosperity to the industry. The idea is that the school shall have a speciality of its own in the near future. The design for such speciality will be obtained from a professional designer in England when the time comes. The end aimed at is that the pattern decided upon shall easily be adaptable to every article of lace turned out by the school. Whilst the more efficient workers are learning the Italian patterns, the less experienced continue to turn out the more readily saleable of the other patterns, the prices of which will be gradually

reduced. By this system it is hoped that the school before long will be in a position to compete in the open market more successfully than has been the case in the past. Quicker work and lower prices will alone allow successful competition in the torchon market. As regards the school's prices, however, there are no complaints on that score from the many lady patrons in England and South Africa. Such complaints are practically confined to steamer passengers, who purchase very little. Such persons, with, of course, occasional exceptions, appear to gauge the value of lace from the cheap article sold at places like Santa Cruz and Las Palmas, where the material used is, as a rule, of very inferior quality.

As Miss Girdwood points out, the school has so far chiefly consisted of the embroidery and needlework departments; the lace made being used chiefly as a necessary finish to the articles turned out. 1911, however, will see a change in this state of affairs. In her annual report on the school, Miss Girdwood, *inter alia*, writes:—"The Lace School proper is now showing signs of developing on lines of its own, and quite independently of the needlework, a new departure having also been made here with large possibilities before it. A class has been started to take up lace of the old Italian style, in the hope of this some day being made capable of developing into designs exclusively St. Helenian. This has been at the suggestion of Mrs. Ord Marshall, aided by the very generous help of other ladies of the League of the Empire. Specimens of valuable old laces have been sent out as patterns, and as soon as these have been copied they will be sent to England for criticism and orders. This lace, while very beautiful, takes a long time to work, and will thus be rather expensive and quite beyond the means of ordinary purchasers, so that the workers will have to aim at developing sufficient skill to enable them to compete with the best class of lace workers in England. As a first step toward this end, the girls in training are keenly interested in what they are doing. All good work here, as in embroidery, takes time, so that with these specimens having to be sent home, returned and set going again, exactly as the public requires, other girls trained, and the work fairly set in order, we shall have cause for thankfulness if the close of 1911 sees the accomplishment of all this. We shall then, with the corresponding advance of the needlework section, have taken such a march forward that the prospects of the Lace School as an established industry should be assured beyond failure."

Thanks to the generosity of Mr. Mosely, who provided the necessary funds, Miss Girdwood was able to maintain lace-making classes both in the country and in Jamestown. By this means almost every girl on the island has had, and is still having, a chance to benefit, if she is only ready to take the trouble. The Manageress reports the response of the girls to be most gratifying. Mr. Mosely has again come to our aid, and has sent me the necessary funds to maintain the classes referred to during the year 1911. By the means of these "Mosely Classes," and by "Special Children's Needlework Classes" which Miss Girdwood holds in the country, all the children in the island will in time become skilful workers. No matter, therefore, however much the

school may expand, there will always be a sufficient supply of recruits to meet its demands for fresh workers, and thus the present difficulty of working with adult beginners will vanish.

To quote once more from Miss Girdwood's annual report:—"Taking the development and progress of the Lace School in general for the year, everything seems to be working together for the good of the whole. The willingness of the workers to co-operate in anything that may tell for the good of the school, even when this may not be very much to their immediate advantage, is one of the chief factors in enabling the work to be carried on. There is also a strong and growing desire on the part of the Assistants to prove themselves worthy of the trust and responsibility their position requires. This, and their awakening pride in the welfare of their school, are marked features in the development of the past year, and give a very encouraging outlook for the progress of 1911."

Any success attained by the school so far is in great measure due to the capable and untiring management of Miss Girdwood.

A great honour was paid to the school on the 24th October of the year under review, when the institution was visited by Field Marshal His Royal Highness the Duke of Connaught, Her Royal Highness the Duchess of Connaught, and Her Royal Highness Princess Patricia. The Royal visitors displayed the greatest interest in the school's work, and made large purchases. Their Royal Highnesses the Duchess of Connaught and Princess Patricia most graciously accepted articles of fine needlework and lace from the school. Their Royal Highnesses also strongly urged that the school should without delay take up the old Italian patterns, feeling sure that, judging from the beautiful work they had seen, the school and the workers would derive greater benefits therefrom than by confining their attention to the Torchon patterns. The practical and sympathetic interest which the Duchess and Princess Patricia have taken in the Lace School can only work for the great good of the lace-making industry in St. Helena.

Fisheries.—A mackerel-curing factory was opened in Jamestown by Mr. Mosely on the 26th February. Great expectations had been formed as to how the new industry would prosper, and many of us hoped that the effort would go no little way towards alleviating the distress among the poorer classes in Jamestown. I regret to say that those hopes have not been realised. It would appear that the conditions governing the catching of mackerel are the same in St. Helena as exist everywhere else in the world. That fish is at times caught in large numbers, whilst at other times, although present in large shoals, they will not look at the bait. The total number of mackerel landed in Jamestown during the year was 11,449½ dozen. Looking at the records of about 100 years ago, we find that 12,597 dozen mackerel were caught in one month alone—September, 1813. There is no doubt that the year 1910 was an abnormally bad year for fish of every description. The fishermen seem totally ignorant of why this should have been, while the superstitious put all such happenings down to the comet. During the 10 months the factory was open, only 3,429 dozen of mackerel were delivered there. This quantity

represented 98 barrels, 85 of which were shipped to New York. The first lot (52 barrels) fetched quite a good price, and yet there was a loss of over 7*s.* a barrel on the transaction. This pretty plainly shows that mackerel-curing is not going to pay in St. Helena. In fact, Mr. Mosely closed the factory early in 1911. In addition to the large outlay in preliminary expenses, referred to in last year's report, Mr. Mosely purchased two fishing boats, which are leased out on easy terms. Besides the effort made to develop the mackerel industry, a Mr. Dunn, on behalf of Mr. Mosely, visited St. Helena early in 1910 with a view to seeing if anything could be made out of the albicore (tunny) fisheries. Mr. Dunn's report was, unfortunately, not favourable, and it is plain now (looking at the total catch for the year) that had the tunny industry been attempted the result would probably have been a financial failure, as the total catch of that fish for the year amounted to only 2,001. The total number of fish of all kinds landed in Jamestown during the year amounted to 16,200 dozen, of which 11,449 dozen were mackerel. This extraordinary shortage in the supply of what is the staple food of the labouring classes in St. Helena was a source of embarrassment at times, as the fishermen regulate the price according to the catch, and allow no feelings of sentiment to interfere with their demands. In the East India Company's days the price of mackerel and albicore was regulated by law, thereby preventing the vendors from victimising their poorer clients. At the season of the year when mackerel, as a rule, are most plentiful, the price of that fish ranged in 1910 from 1*s.* to 1*s.* 6*d.* a dozen, whereas in an ordinary year the price would have been 2*d.* to 4*d.* a dozen.

Whaling.—There is no doubt that St. Helena is well situated as a whaling centre. This fact has at last been recognised; and, provided no unforeseen difficulties arise, I hope to see a whaling station and factory established in Rupert's Valley during the year 1911. The matter is in the hands of a British syndicate, whose expert has already visited St. Helena and reported very favourably on the suitability of the island as a whaling station.

(D.) Shipping.

The number of vessels that called at the island during the year under review was 51 (the lowest on record) as compared with 59 in the previous year. The tonnage of those 51 vessels was 181,071, as against a tonnage of 159,915 in 1909. Eleven sailing ships called during the year, and only 2 of these were British. In addition to the calling vessels, 20 passing ships were boarded by licensed traders, being 4 more than in the preceding year.

Among the calling ships were 7 British men-of-war, including H.M.S. "Balmoral Castle," in which vessel Their Royal Highnesses the Duke of Connaught, the Duchess of Connaught, and Princess Patricia, paid an informal visit to the Colony on their way to South Africa.

Three American whalers (sailing vessels) put in to the island for the purpose of giving their crews liberty and in order to take in supplies of fresh provisions. The "catch" of these vessels

amounted to 2,340 barrels of oil and 10,200 lbs. of bone, valued at approximately £9,360 and £2,040 respectively.

Twenty-eight vessels entered and cleared at the port of Jamestown during the year. Of these no less than 26 were the Union-Castle Company's mail steamers.

In view of the probability of St. Helena shortly becoming an important whaling station, it will not be out of place to give a few particulars in connection with that industry in the days when St. Helena was a regular port of call for the American whaling fleet in the South Atlantic. Up to 1884 that fleet, composed of some 30 to 40 vessels (ranging from 100 to 300 tons) called regularly at St. Helena twice a year, in March and September, in order to give liberty to their crews, to take in green vegetables, potatoes, and water, and replenish with stores from America, which were sent out in schooners, which vessels returned with the "catch" of oil and bone. The value of the "catches" ranged from £22,000 to £50,000 yearly. The value of sperm oil was then worth £4 for 31½ American gallons. Only the oil and bone were saved, the remainder of the carcase was not used as is now done at shore stations. The value of humpback oil was about £2 for 31½ gallons. The majority of this fleet used to sail south of St. Helena to whale in the summer months, and went north of the island and on the West Coast of Africa during the winter.

The reasons assigned for these vessels abandoning St. Helena as a port of call to tranship their catches, &c., were as follows:—

Firstly: up to 1886 they had to pay transhipment dues on their catch; secondly: the cost of potatoes was then 16*s*. to 20*s*. per cwt. —a vessel's supply was usually 40 to 50 bags per half year; thirdly: the price of fresh water was 10*s*. a ton; fourthly: the price of oil went down in the American market; and lastly: the natives of St. Helena demanded too big an advance in cash on first shipping as deck hands. All these objections have since been removed. The transhipment charges have been abolished; the price of good potatoes now stands at 6*s*. to 8*s*. per cwt.; water taken in from the Government hose is only 2*s*. per ton; oil has gone up in price; the demand for big cash advances by the islanders is no longer to be feared; and generally the price of provisions has since come down considerably.

I am glad to say that these whaling vessels are slowly returning to St. Helena, and it is expected that an American schooner from New Bedford will in future call at the Island twice a year, to bring out stores and take home the half yearly "catches." This arrangement will be very beneficial to the island community, as oil, timber, oil-cake for cattle, oats, and such like, can be purchased cheap in America and imported in the schooner named at reasonable freight charges.

III.—LEGISLATION.

There were six Ordinances enacted during the year under review, two being in connection with public expenditure.

IV.—EDUCATION.

There are three Government Schools and five schools that are known as Church Schools. The number of children attending the schools during the year was:—

—	Boys.	Girls.	Total.
Government Schools	165	184	349
Church Schools	194	152	346
Grand Total	...	...	695

The above figures show an increase of 56 over the previous year's attendance.

On the 1st January, 1910, Mr. Tucker was given supervision over all the Government Schools instead of confining his attention to the Senior School only. The new arrangement has worked satisfactorily, and good progress was made during the year. In the Senior School particularly the quarterly examinations showed a steady improvement in the case of nearly every child on the roll. Being the first year under the new organization scheme, there were many difficulties to contend with and many defects to put right where the country and junior schools were concerned, but everything points to the fact that the schools generally have decidedly benefited under the new régime. A practical course of instruction in Swedish physical exercises was given to a class formed of most of the teachers in the island. The instruction has been passed on to the children not only in the Government, but also in several of the Church Schools.

The teaching of simple hygiene in the Government Schools continues to bear good results; and I am glad to say more attention to that important subject appears to be now given in the Church Schools. In the former schools the chief aim has been so to prepare the pupil teachers that the truths of health may be presented to the children in an intelligent manner, but impressively rather than scientifically.

The pupil teacher classes were well attended throughout the year. Attendance at those classes is compulsory where Government pupil teachers are concerned, but teachers from the church schools appear to attend or not according as the whim may seize them. During the last half of the year three teachers from the latter schools attended the classes and were very well reported on at the end of the year when the examinations were held.

Miss Girdwood kindly undertook, gratuitously, to supervise the needlework classes of the several schools, and that lady reports a marked improvement in the work for the year. Miss Girdwood's methods of grading the work to suit the capacity of the various classes, and a systematic advancement from one stage to another, has altered the whole tone of needlework teaching in St. Helena. That those girls are capable of turning out work of very high

quality has been fully proved in the results attained by the Government Lace School.

The expenditure under Education for the year under review amounted to £602 4*s*. 3*d*. as compared with £659 13*s*. 6*d*. in 1909

V.—GOVERNMENT INSTITUTIONS.

(A.) Hospital.

One hundred and fifty-one patients were admitted to the Hospital during the year, as compared with 164 in 1909. Of the number admitted 100 were males. There were six deaths, equivalent to a rate of 3·97 per cent. of admissions. The nature of diseases did not vary very strikingly from the previous year. There were no cases of pneumonia as contrasted with 10 cases in 1909. The Colonial Surgeon accounts for this fact as being due to the absence of influenza in the Colony during the year

There were over 4,000 attendances registered in the out-patients department, being about 1,000 more than in the previous year.

The Hospital Emergency Fund continues to be of great service in assisting to defray the expenses of the poorer patients.

On the 24th October the Hospital was honoured by a visit paid by Field Marshal His Royal Highness the Duke of Connaught and by Their Royal Highnesses the Duchess of Connaught and Princess Patricia. The Royal visitors spent a short time in each of the wards, where they spoke individually to the patients. Their Royal Highnesses' gracious words, and the charming interest they displayed in everything connected with the Hospital, will not easily be forgotten by the doctors, nurses, and patients.

Under the zealous and capable superintendence of the Matron, Miss Hart, the nursing duties were carried out with admirable efficiency.

(B.) Savings Bank.

On the 31st December there were 130 depositors on the books of the Savings Bank, as against 143 on the same date in the previous year. The total sum deposited during the year amounted to £803 12*s*., or a decrease of £779 3*s*. as compared with 1909. On the other hand the withdrawals were abnormally large, amounting to £3,820 3*s*. 5*d*. as against £3,191 1*s*. 9*d*. in the previous year. The above figures show that the withdrawals exceeded the deposits by £3,016 11*s*. 5*d*. during the year. This fact was due to the general depression which still hangs over the Colony, which depression was added to by the temporary shutting-down of the Government Flax Mill and unexpected failure of the fish-curing industry.

The Bank's transactions for the year showed an excess of £111 18*s*. 11*d*. in revenue over expenditure.

On the last day of the year £13,814 15*s*. 11*d*. was due to depositors, not including the interest for that year. The amount due on the same date in 1909 was £16,397 0*s*. 7*d*. Against the amount

due to depositors on the 31st December, 1910, stock to the value (purchase price) of £14,835 13*s*. 1*d*. was invested. The market value of this stock was only £13,394 10*s*. 10*d*. on the date named.

VI.—JUDICIAL STATISTICS.

(A.) Criminal Statistics.

Supreme Court.—Two prisoners were arraigned and convicted in this court during the year (being one more than in the previous year), namely, one for shop-breaking and larceny and the other for sheep-stealing. The first was sentenced to 18 months' imprisonment with hard labour, and the other to penal servitude for four years.

Police Court.—240 cases were dealt with in this Court, as against 135 in 1909. This large increase was entirely due to the poverty existing among the poorer classes of the community. There were no less than 81 cases for arrears of poor rates extending over several quarters, as against 18 in 1909.

(B.) Prisons.

Forty-five prisoners (including 15 women) were committed to the gaol during the year as compared with 53 in 1909. The daily average number in gaol was 3·67, being an increase of ·52 over the preceding year. This increase is accounted for by the admission of two long-term prisoners early in the year. Only six men were committed to prison under the Road Tax Ordinance during the year, as against 25 in the previous year. The cost of maintaining the gaol amounted to £104 4*s*. 3*d*., an increase of £10 2*s*. 1*d*. over 1909. On the 31st December, 1910, three prisoners remained in gaol, two of whom are undergoing sentences of penal servitude.

The Zulu prisoners, 18 in number, left the Colony on November 29th, 1910, having been granted a free pardon by the Governor-General of South Africa on the occasion of the opening of the Union Parliament at Cape Town. During the 3½ years the prisoners were confined in the Colony seven deaths occurred among them. Six of these deaths were the result of organic diseases contracted before the prisoners' arrival in the Colony, and were in no way due to local climatic causes. The conduct of the prisoners throughout their incarceration was exemplary. The cost of maintenance of the Zulu prison amounted to £807 during the year, being a decrease of £58 as compared with the previous year.

(C.) Police Force.

The force gave satisfaction during the year. 101 trivial cases were dealt with by the police, apart from 234 cases dealt with in the Police Court.

VII.—VITAL STATISTICS.

(A.) Population.

The estimated civil population on the 31st December, 1910, was 3,441, as compared with 3,553 in the previous year. This decrease was more than accounted for by the excess of the number of emigrants over immigrants.

There were 203 emigrants and 27 immigrants during the year, as against 79 and 43 respectively in 1909. Included among the emigrants were 66 domestic servants for South Africa and Ascension. Every month, several women of this class proceed to South Africa. 52 island men, forming part of the crew of the cable ship "Britannia," were at sea on the 31st December, 1910, and are therefore not included in the population for the year.

There were 87 births (including five still-born) during the year, as compared with 99 (including three still-born) in the previous year. The number of illegitimate births was 21, being six less than in 1909.

The death rate in 1910 among the civil population was 10·7 per 1,000, being 4·3 per 1,000 more than in the previous year. There were 40 deaths in all, including three Zulu prisoners. 26 out of the 40 deaths took place in the town district. There were nine deaths of persons over 70 years of age, and four of children under one year.

Marriages increased from 17 in 1909 to 22 in 1910.

(B.) Public Health.

The community maintained a satisfactory standard of health, although the death rate increased from 6·4 per 1,000 in 1909 to 10·7 per 1,000 in 1910. In this connection Dr. Arnold points out that: "a continuance of the low death rate of 1909 was, however "desirable, hardly to be expected where neglect of the laws of "health opens so many avenues to disease and death, though "there is distinct evidence that a better understanding of the care "of health prevails generally amongst the people."

There were no deaths during the year between the ages of three months and five years. There were four deaths under three months, three of which were due to congenital debility. There were three deaths from Tuberculosis, two of which were old standing cases, and the other a freshly developed acute case. Three cases of Enteric Fever and two of Diphtheria were recorded during the year.

My Colonial Surgeon reports that for the first time during a period of 10 years, Influenza was not epidemic during any part of the year. Every previous year since 1900 was marked by an epidemic of more or less severity.

The infant mortality rate during 1910 was 48·7 per 1,000 births, the lowest yet recorded. Comparing this rate with the two preceding periods of five years, a very marked decline in infant mortality becomes apparent. In 1900 the death rate per 1,000

registered births was 120·6; in 1905 the rate was 80·8 per 1,000; whilst in the year under review it had fallen, as stated, to 48·7 per 1,000.

The medical staff of the Colony, which since 1906 has consisted of one medical officer, was reinforced towards the end of the year by the appointment of an assistant to the Colonial Surgeon.

(C.) Sanitary.

Meetings of the Board of Health were held monthly, and various matters of a minor nature were dealt with by that body in connection with the sanitation of Jamestown and the island generally. Effectual supervision is exercised over slaughter-houses, mineral water factories and such like. There was only one prosecution during the year under the Public Health Ordinance.

The Leper establishment in Rupert's Valley was closed early in the year on the death of the only inmate, a child of eight years of age.

(D.) Climate.

Meteorological Station, Hutt's Gate.

Barometer.—The mean pressure for 1910 was 28·122 inches, as against 28·132 inches in 1909.

Temperature.—The mean temperature for the year was 56·4°; 59·8° being the mean in 1909. The absolute maximum occurred on the 1st and 27th March, the reading being 78° as against 75·5° on the 9th December in the previous year. The lowest maximum, 64·8°, was recorded on the 27th October; the lowest in 1909 was 64·1° on the 22nd August of that year. The absolute minimum, 51°, was recorded on the 20th and 23rd August, and 30th September; 49·9° was the corresponding reading in 1909, on the 9th September.

Rainfall.—44·38 inches on 271 days was the total fall for the year, as compared with 42·36 inches on 267 days in 1909. The maximum fall took place on the 8th March and read 1·38 inches, as against 1·70 inches on the 3rd May in 1909. June's total was the largest monthly fall, and amounted to 5·61 inches on 27 days; in October, with not so large a fall, the number of days on which rain fell totalled 29.

Wind.—The mean force for the year was 2·3, which is equivalent to slightly over 14 miles, practically the same as in 1909. August, October, and November were the windiest months. In August a velocity of 36 miles was recorded on the 9th, 10th, 18th, and 29th. 36 miles was also recorded in the previous year on the 11th and 21st August and 7th September. Five calm days were registered as against six in the previous year.

The following table gives the direction for the year:—

	No. of days.
S.S.E.	117
S.E.	235
E.S.E.	8
Calm	5

Jamestown.

Temperature.

	1909.	1910.
Mean	72·7°	73·2°
Absolute maximum ...	80·0° on 17th April	80·0° on 19th May.
Absolute minimum ...	65·0° on 1st Sept.	65·0° 29th Sept and 1st Oct.

Rainfall.

	1909.	1910.
Total	7·43 inches	6·74 inches.
Number of rainy days	56	54
Maximum fall ...	0·43 inches on 1st March.	0·68 inches on 8th June.

In addition to the rain gauges at Hutt's Gate and Jamestown, a number of residents kept a record of the rainfall during the whole or part of the year. The following are the only two records kept throughout the entire year:—

	Total fall. Inches.	Number of days on which rain fell.
Farm Lodge ...	38·07	... 233
Oak Bank ...	48·58	... 229

The two properties named are situated about the same height above the sea, and are only distant from each other about 1¼ miles as the crow flies, and yet there is 9½ inches difference of rainfall between the two.

VIII.—POSTAL, TELEGRAPH, AND TELEPHONE SERVICES.

(A.) Post Office.

Revenue.—The revenue amounted to £873 8*s.*11*d.* during the year under review, as compared with £609 11*s.* 9*d.* in the previous year. This increase was almost entirely accounted for under the sale of stamps and post cards, which realised £277 9*s.* more than in 1909. On the other hand there was a decrease of nearly £30 under commissions on Money and Postal Orders, as compared with the previous year. The total value of stamps sold was £783 5*s.* 10*d.*, of which £414 4*s.* was contributed by non-residents.

Expenditure.—The year's expenditure amounted to £385 8*s.* 11*d.*, or £16 6*s.* 7*d.* less than in 1909.

Mail matter.—The following figures give the mail matter dealt with during the year as compared with 1909:—

From the United Kingdom and elsewhere:—

	1910.	1909.
Bags of mails	213	220
Parcels	2,171	2,131
Registered articles ...	1,102	943
Insured letters	6	7

To the United Kingdom and elsewhere:—

	1910.	1909.
Bags of mails	120	134
Parcels	420	483
Registered articles ...	2,639	1,915
Insured letters	6	1

Money and Postal Orders.—Transactions under this head were as follows:—

	1910. £	*s.*	*d.*	1909. £	*s.*	*d.*
Money Orders received...	934	18	7	761	7	2
Postal ,, ,, ...	1,376	0	10	1,691	13	4
Money Orders issued ...	1,277	16	9	3,033	4	10
Postal ,, ,, ...	1,785	14	0½	1,510	3	4

Commission received on the above during the year under review amounted to £37 1*s.* 8*d.*, as compared with £66 7*s.* 2*d.* in 1909.

(B.) Telegraphs.

There were no changes in tariff during the year under review. The Colony receives a most excellent and inexpensive news service of daily messages from Reuter—the charge being only £30 for an annual service of 5,800 words, that is, a daily message (Sundays excepted) of nearly 200 words at a cost of about 1*d.* for every eight words.

The neighbouring island of Ascension will soon be a very important cable station. During the year a cable was laid connecting that island with Buenos Aires, whilst a duplicate cable was laid between Ascension and St. Vincent.

In May the Directors of the Eastern Telegraph Company transferred the headquarters of one of their cable-repairing ships from St. Paul de Loando to St. Helena. This gives the opportunity for a considerable number of islanders to obtain employment of a suitable nature. The vessel referred to gives continual employment when in port and at sea to 20 men or more, whilst another 30 odd are taken on whenever the vessel puts to sea on cable repairing service.

IX.—GENERAL OBSERVATIONS.

(A.) Roads.

The roads of the Colony were maintained at a cost of £400 during the year. In addition to this, £60 was expended in keeping the streets of Jamestown in order. The latter amount is barely sufficient for the purpose; but prison labour is to a great extent used in the repairs of those streets, thus supplementing the paid labourers.

The Road Tax brought in £94 13*s.* 6*d.*, practically the same amount as in 1909. 631 persons paid the tax.

(B.) Land Grants and General Value of Land.

There was no change in the value of land. There were six transfers and two grants during the year. Government rents realised £848 during the year, as compared with £814 in 1909.

(C.) Rate of Wages and Cost of Living.

There was no material change under this head during the year under review, as compared with 1909. The price of rice and flour was reduced during the year, in each case by ½*d.* a pound. Beef and vegetables remained cheap. As mentioned earlier in this report, fish were scarcer during 1910 than in any other year in the memory of the people. For the last six or seven months of the year mackerel fetched from 1*s.* to 2*s.* a dozen, whereas in ordinary years the price would have been from 2*d.* to 4*d.* a dozen. These famine prices caused increased hardships to the poorer classes, whose staple diet is fish and rice. The introduction of farthings into the Colony during the year proved of real benefit to the poor.

(D.) Departments and Institutions.

Public Works Department.

The Public Works Department's expenditure for the year amounted to £2,232, as compared with £1,934 in the previous year.

Poor Board.

The revenue of the Poor Board for the year amounted to £822, against an expenditure of £783. The figures in the previous year were £848 and £847, respectively.

Public Market.

The year's transactions showed a revenue of £95 and an expenditure of £88, as compared with £116 and £80, respectively, in 1909.

(E.) Miscellaneous.

The news of the death of His late Majesty King Edward VII. came unexpectedly on the early morning of May 7th, 1910. The grievous loss which the nation had suffered caused profound sorrow throughout the island. The sorrow felt on the occasion was, even in this isolated outpost of the Empire, to a great extent personal, owing to the fact that the late King had so entirely gained the affection, confidence, and devotion of his people in all parts of his dominions. The high sense of duty and patriotism which marked His late Majesty's rule made a great and lasting impression even among those of his subjects who had never seen him. It was probably the late King's humaneness, more than any other of his many good qualities, that appealed to such people.

The Accession to the Throne of His Majesty King George V. was formally proclaimed in the Colony on May 9th, 1910. The new Sovereign's message to his people beyond the seas, issued a few days later, created a most favourable impression, and the hearts of the people of St. Helena went out to their new King with the same feelings of loyalty and devotion which had animated their hearts for the King they had lost.

October 24th and 25th of the year under review will always be remembered as golden letter days in the annals of the Colony by those who were privileged to welcome Field Marshal His Royal Highness the Duke of Connaught, Her Royal Highness the Duchess of Connaught, and Her Royal Highness Princess Patricia of Connaught, who paid an informal visit to the island, on the dates named, on their way to South Africa, to which country His Royal Highness the Duke of Connaught was proceeding in order to inaugurate, in the King's name, the Constitution of the Union of South Africa. Only on one other occasion has a member of the Royal Family visited St. Helena, and that was in 1860, when His Royal Highness the late Duke of Edinburgh, landed in the Colony for a few hours from H.M.S. " Euryalus," in which vessel His Royal Highness was serving as a midshipman. Consequently, the Royal visit of 1910 was acclaimed by the islanders as a mark of special honour to St. Helena. Their Royal Highnesses arrived in H.M.S. " Balmoral Castle " on the morning of 24th October, and proceeded on their voyage to South Africa on the following evening. The warm welcome accorded to the Royal visitors by the islanders was as genuine as it was enthusiastic and loyal. St. Helena is, unfortunately, not in a position to make any great display on an occasion of this kind. The absence of troops, and the financial conditions now existing, made any attempt at pomp and ceremony impossible. The welcome accorded to Their Royal Highnesses was none the less thoroughly genuine and sincere. The people of the island gladly seized the opportunity of the happily conceived visit to testify in a practical manner to their loyalty and devotion to His Majesty's throne and person. The visit was an unqualified success in every way. Nothing happened to mar that success, thanks to the gracious kindness of their Royal Highnesses, and to the sympathetic interest they took in the island, its people, and its industries. The most charming side of the visit was the " personal " element. Their Royal Highnesses won all hearts, and created a feeling not short of devotion among the islanders, very few of whom had ever before been privileged to look upon a member of the Royal family.

Addresses were presented to Field Marshal His Royal Highness the Duke of Connaught by the inhabitants of St. Helena and by the Freemasons. His Royal Highness presented a colour to the Church Lads Brigade, and gave the boys some excellent advice on the occasion. The Royal party visited the Castle, the hospital, the Governmen[illegible]e school, and the flax mill. Longwood was also visited, where Their Royal Highnesses were intensely interested in everything they saw connected with the Emperor Napoleon's captivity.

A full-dress investiture was held on the first day of the visit, on board H.M.S. " Balmoral Castle," when His Royal Highness the

Duke of Connaught, in the King's name, invested the Governor of the Colony as a Knight Commander of the Most Distinguished Order of St. Michael and St. George. On the same day Their Royal Highnesses gave a dinner party on board the vessed named, to which the Governor of the Colony and several of the leading residents had the honour of being invited. On the second day of the visit Their Royal Highnesses were entertained at luncheon by the Governor at Government House; after which there was a garden party, at which all the leading residents of the island had the honour of being presented to the Royal visitors.

On leaving the Colony His Royal Highness the Duke of Connaught issued the following farewell message to the inhabitants:—

"His Royal Highness The Duke of Connaught asks His Excellency the Governor if he will kindly convey to the inhabitants of St. Helena his great appreciation of the kind reception given him, and to the Duchess of Connaught and Princess Patricia, during their interesting visit.

"He much appreciated the universal mark of loyalty as evinced by the general decoration of the Island wherever he went, for he knows how much thought and trouble this must have entailed.

"In wishing farewell to the island and to its inhabitants he desires to say that he will carry with him the pleasantest recollection of his visit to St. Helena."

This gracious message, and the kind thought which prompted its issue, was a fitting finale to a most charming and memorable event. The impression left behind by the Royal visitors could not possibly have been happier.

H. L. GALLWEY,
Governor and
Commander-in-Chief.

The Castle,
St. Helena,
February 15th, 1911.

INDICATING THE

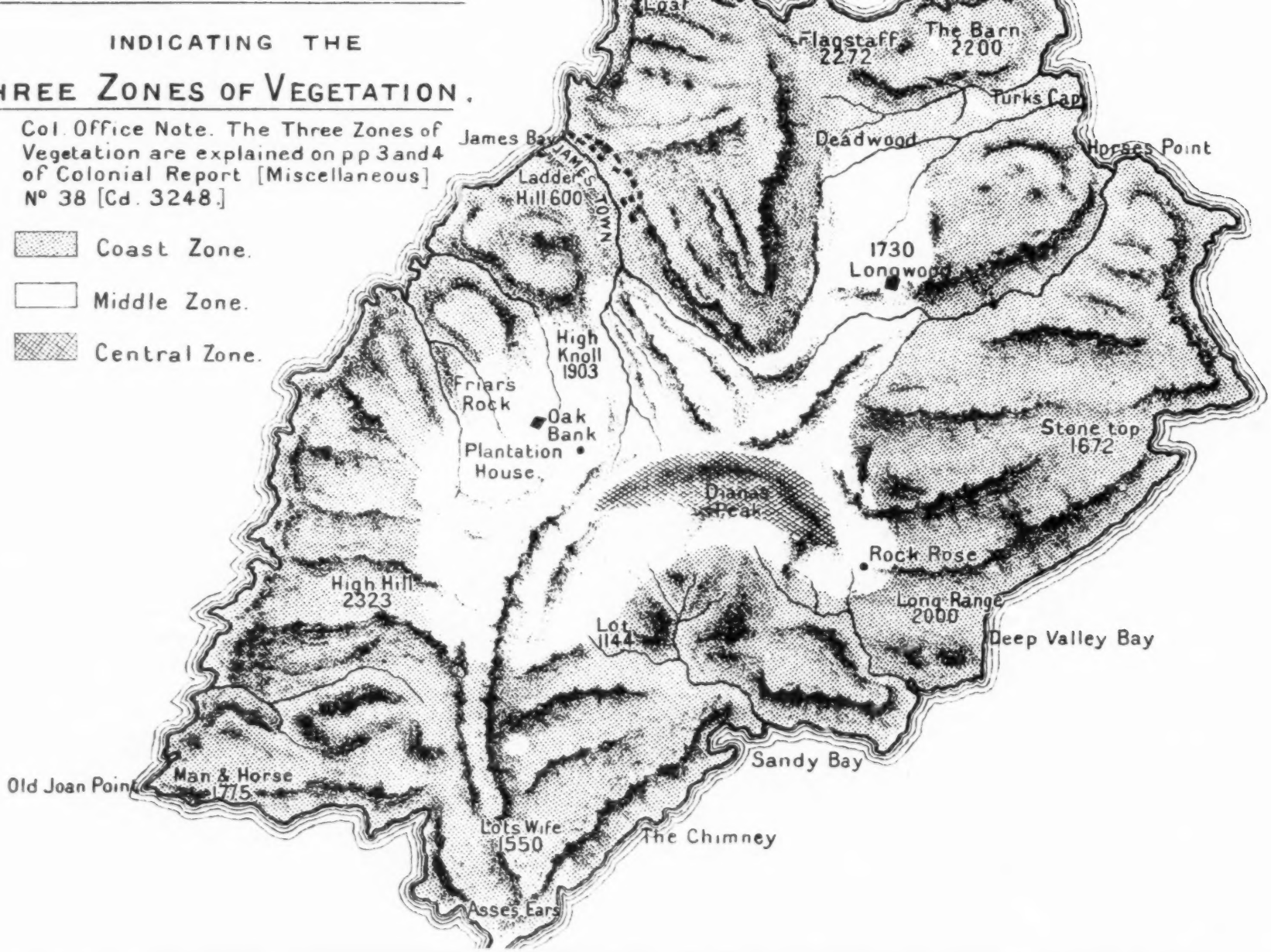
THREE ZONES OF VEGETATION.

Col. Office Note. The Three Zones of Vegetation are explained on pp 3 and 4 of Colonial Report [Miscellaneous] Nº 38 [Cd. 3248.]

Coast Zone.

Middle Zone.

Central Zone.



COLONIAL REPORTS, &c.

The following recent reports, &c., relating to His Majesty's Colonial Possessions have been issued, and may be obtained from the sources indicated on the title page :—

ANNUAL.

No.	Colony, &c.	Year.
637	Weihaiwei	1909
638	St. Helena	"
639	Northern Territories of the Gold Coast	"
640	Ashanti	"
641	Gambia	"
642	Malta	1909–1910
643	Seychelles	1909
644	Colonial Survey Committee	1909–1910
645	Falkland Islands	"
646	Turks and Caicos Islands	1909
647	Gibraltar	"
648	Sierra Leone	"
649	Somaliland	1909–1910
650	Bahamas	"
651	Tongan Islands Protectorate	"
652	Bechuanaland Protectorate	"
653	Ceylon	1909
654	Gold Coast	"
655	Nyasaland	1909–1910
656	Imperial Institute	1909
657	Fiji	"
658	Grenada	"
659	Hong Kong	"
660	Barbados	1909–1910
661	Swaziland	1909
662	Jamaica	"
663	Straits Settlements	"
664	Trinidad and Tobago	1909–1910
665	Southern Nigeria	1909
666	Mauritius	"
667	British Honduras	"
668	St. Vincent	1909–1910
669	East Africa Protectorate	"
670	Uganda	"
671	British Guiana	"
672	St. Lucia	1909
673	Leeward Islands	1909–1910
674	Northern Nigeria	1909

MISCELLANEOUS.

No.	Colony, &c.	Subject
67	Southern Nigeria	Mineral Survey, 1905–6.
68	Do. do.	Do. 1906–7.
69	St. Helena	Fisheries.
70	Colonies	List of Laws relating to Patents, Trade Marks, &c.
71	Imperial Institute	Foodstuffs.
72	Fiji	Hurricane, 1910.
73	Jamaica	Cayman Islands.
74	Ceylon	Mineral Survey 1906–7 and 1907–8.
75	West Indies	Imperial Department of Agriculture.
76	Southern Nigeria	Mineral Survey, 1907–8.

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1911.

COLONIAL REPORTS—ANNUAL.

No. 714.

ST. HELENA.

REPORT FOR 1911.

(For Report for 1910, *see* No. 675.)

Presented to both Houses of Parliament by Command of His Majesty
June, 1912.

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Sketch Map.

No. 714.

ST. HELENA.

(For Report for 1910, *see* No. 675.)

THE GOVERNOR TO THE SECRETARY OF STATE.

The Castle,
St. Helena,
16th April, 1912.

SIR,

I have the honour to transmit herewith the Colony's Blue Book for the year 1911, together with the Report thereon.

2. As I did not arrive in this Colony until after the close of the year under report I have been unable to write from personal knowledge or observation of the several matters dealt with, and have mainly confined myself to embodying the reports of the heads of the various departments concerned.

3. The List of Colonial Government Properties with their rentals does not accompany the Blue Book as usual. A revision of the list is being made, and as soon as printed, which will take some little time, the list will be transmitted to you. I have thought it desirable not to hold back the Blue Book for the document named.

I have, &c.,

H. E. S. CORDEAUX,
Governor and
Commander-in-Chief.

The Right Honourable
Lewis Harcourt, M.P.,
Secretary of State for the Colonies.

(24484—2.) Wt. 29478—571. 1125 & 90. 6/12. D & S A 2

ANNUAL REPORT FOR THE YEAR 1911.

I.—FINANCIAL.

(A.) Revenue.

The revenue collected during the year under review amounted to £8,622 16*s*. 1*d*., being £1,509 16*s*. 1*d*., in excess of the estimate, and showing an increase of £1,816 13*s*. over the revenue of the preceding year.

This increase of revenue was mainly due to abnormally large Post Office receipts, namely, £1,573 more than the figures of the previous year, owing to an exceptionally large sale of stamps to dealers outside the Colony. There was also a noticeable increase, amounting to £435, under Customs receipts, which may be attributed partly to a slight revival of trade, and partly to the presence in port, during the greater part of the year, of the Eastern Telegraph Company's cable-repairing ship "Britannia."

Against this increase there were shortfalls, under four heads, amounting to £226.

The revenue of the year was £506 10*s*. 8*d*. less than the expenditure, this being the smallest deficit since the withdrawal of the garrison in 1906. It should be noted, however, that the increase in revenue is, for the most part, due to causes which cannot be regarded as permanent, namely, abnormal Post Office receipts. But, even so, the revenue still shows a substantial increase, which may be taken as an indication of improved conditions in the Colony.

(B.) Expenditure.

The expenditure during the year amounted to £9,129 6*s*. 9*d*., being £61 5*s*. 11*d*. less than the estimate, and a decrease of £466 15*s*. 2*d*. as compared with the figures of the previous year. Decreases were effected under nine heads, amounting to £776, against which have to be put increases amounting to £309 under three principal heads, namely, Medical, £139, due to the admission of a larger number of patients and to the higher rate paid for provisions; Post Office £88, representing the cost of printing stamps, and commission paid on stamps sold to non-residents; and Port and Marine £44, being the purchase price of a new boat.

(C.) Assets and Liabilities.

The assets of the Colony on the 31st December, 1911, amounted to £25,220 17*s*. 7*d*., and the liabilities £25,113 17*s*. 7*d*., thus giving a surplus of assets over liabilities amounting to £107 as compared with £186 11*s*. 4*d*. of the preceding year.

Under assets, a sum of £1,949 was written off during the year, as an act of grace on the occasion of Their Majesties' Coronation, from the amount of £3,301 outstanding against the Jamestown

householders on account of drainage and water claims, thus leaving a balance of £1,352 still due at the end of the year under review. Under assets, also, is included a sum of £8,279, representing the expenditure incurred by the Colony in connection with repatriation of the emigrant passengers of the wrecked "Papanui." The Colony's investments on 31st December, 1911, amounted to £13,835 13*s*. 1*d*. at cost, with a market value on the same date of £12,530 18*s*. 4*d*., showing a depreciation of £1,304 14*s*. 7*d*.

The liabilities include a sum of £12,570 5*s*. 3*d*. due to depositors in the Savings Bank, and an overdraft with the Crown Agents for the Colonies of £12,395.

(D.) Currency.

The cash circulation at the commencement of the year under review was estimated at £5,000.

Bills on the Crown Agents for the Colonies to the amount of £3,277 were issued during the year, as against £3,822 in 1910.

Specie to the value of £5,310 was imported, and £7,800 exported.

II.—TRADE, AGRICULTURE, AND INDUSTRIES.

(A.) Trade.

Revenue.

The Customs Revenue for the year amounted to £3,778 15*s*. 6*d*., being £434 12*s*. 2*d*. in excess of that of the previous year. An increase is shewn under every head, with the exception of a small decrease under "Warehouse Rent," due to the small stock of dutiable goods in bond, and quick clearance. The principal increases were under the following heads:—

"Wharfage," £285 1*s*. 0*d*., due to unusually large imports of coal, namely 2,960 tons more than in the previous year—realising £444. This indicates a falling off in other imported goods.

"Import Duties," £56 15*s*. 5*d*., due to the presence in port of the cable ship "Britannia."

"Tonnage Dues," £63 17*s*. 0*d*. The increase of coal imports above referred to accounts for this.

"Water," £30 14*s*. 9*d*. The cable ship "Britannia" took 767 tuns and H.M. Navy 221 tuns, both being an increase over 1910.

Expenditure.

The expenditure for the year amounted to £585 0*s*. 9*d*., being £179 16*s*. 3*d*. less than in 1910. This is accounted for by the fact that £215 was refunded on coal supplied to H.M. ships as compared with £392 in the previous year.

Imports.

The total value of imports in 1911 amounted to £42,412, being an excess of £4,842 as compared with 1910. The following table compares the value of the principal imports during the years 1910 and 1911:—

Articles.	1910. £	1911. £
Beef and pork	829	642
Beer	592	566
Butter and margarine	1,014	1,456
Cement and lime	92	232
Chemicals	310	447
Cigars, cigarettes, and tobacco ...	575	641
Coals and patent fuel	4,190	7,150
Drapery and dry goods	3,894	3,448
Flour	3,620	3,370
Grain, seed, and oilcake	1,300	1,875
Hardware	270	953
Leather, boots, &c.	310	569
Machinery	391	142
Oilman's stores	5,684	7,213
Paraffin oil	496	701
Rice	2,097	1,630
Specie	3,655	5,310
Spirits	732	804
Stationery	740	394
Sugar	2,708	2,662
Sundries	432	446
Tea	357	376
Wine	583	579

The increases occur under Butter, £442; Coal and patent fuel, £2,960; Grain, seed, and oilcake, £575; Hardware, £683; Oilman's stores, £1,655. A slight decrease is shown under other items.

Exports.

The total value of exports in 1911 amounted to £9,959 as against £9,324 in 1910. Specie shows a marked increase, being £7,800 as compared with £5,300 in the previous year. The comparative value of the principal exports during the last two years was:—

	1910. £	1911. £
Fibre and tow	1,369	386
Hides and skins	52	127
Sheep, oxen, and calves	935	1,251
Specie	5,300	7,800

The falling off in the export of fibre and tow is due to the fact that the Government flax mill had to be closed down for the greater part of the year.

(B.) Agriculture, Stock, Forests, and Gardens.

The year under review was, on the whole, a bad one for stock-owners. The drought which prevailed for the first four months of the year resulted in cattle getting into low condition, and the period of heavy rain which followed found them in a condition least able to stand it. Again, the last four months of the year were exceptionally dry, which caused heavy losses amongst cattle.

Both cattle and sheep were raised at large expense, chiefly by imported food, to supply the Naval Establishment at Ascension.

The potato crop was also adversely affected by the unfavourable weather. In some parts of the Island potatoes remained in the ground for a long time, there not being enough moisture to bring them on. Consequently they suffered from rot, and potatoes became scarce and dear at times.

Green vegetables did badly and were scarce for the same reasons.

Hay was also unsatisfactory, the crop being very short. In most lands grass was not worth cutting.

About 350 young trees were issued to landowners free of cost from the Plantation nurseries during the year, and about 650 were planted out on Government lands.

The sale of fruit from Maldivia Garden amounted to £19 4*s*. 10½*d*., and the amount realised by the sale of trees (as firewood) from Government lands was £22 8*s*. 7*d*.

(C.) Industries.

Fibre.—Mr. H. J. Broadway, the Manager of the Government Flax Mill, reports as follows:—

His Excellency Sir H. L. Galway was anxious to reopen the mill in January of the year under review, but owing to the scarcity of leaves of the required length, viz., 6 feet, an experiment with those from 3 to 5 feet was made with a view of ascertaining if a sufficient quantity could be daily milled profitably, when it was found, as a result, that only 3 to 4 tons could be handled per day, which would not cover working expenses. Consequently, the mill remained closed till April, when a further effort was made to reopen it by offering the growers 20*s*. per ton for leaves delivered from 4 feet upwards in length. The growers objected to this arrangement, desiring to be paid as heretofore, viz., 5 per cent. on the London market—this, however, failed. No further operations were carried on until November, when, after some little further trouble with the growers as to the length of leaves, His Excellency the Acting Governor approved of the mill being opened for a couple of months to handle flax from 4 feet upwards as a further trial. Work was therefore resumed on the 13th November, and to the 31st December 172 tons of leaves were treated, producing 21 tons of fibre and 5½ tons of tow. The only produce yet sold is 2 tons of tow, realising £14 5*s*. per ton, which is the highest price obtained for the article since the starting of the mill in 1907.

The cash balance to the credit of the Flax Mill Account on 31st December, 1911, was £324 8*s*. excluding fibre and tow unsold.

Lace-making.—In her annual report on the Government Lace School, the manageress, Miss Girdwood, writes:—

The Government Lace School has steadily continued to progress during the last twelve months, though several rather serious setbacks have had to be overcome. The first of these was in the early part of the year, and for some time gave cause for anxiety. This was a strong wave of emigration fever passing over the Island. For the previous two years nearly all the qualified servants and many of the most respectable girls had found

good homes in South Africa as domestic servants. The increased demand, together with the glowing accounts of the first impressions of the girls coming by every mail stirred the whole Island to follow suit.

After the slow and labourious training of the Lace and Needlework School, there is no wonder that this seemed a pleasant and easy way to earn a living, for the St. Helenian is not, as a rule, gifted with the power of seeing both sides of a question, and the only item that loomed large before them was the, to them, extravagant wage offered as compared to the small earnings of the Lace School. Consequently, the whole school became unsettled, but after a few weeks of steady individual pressure, their common-sense asserted itself and we recovered with the loss of one, and became more firmly established than before.

Another drawback was the necessity of supplying goods for the Crystal Palace in connexion with the Coronation festivities. This was done to the extent of £98 8*s*.; but it was afterwards found that no sales would be permitted until the close of the season, and that goods were retained for display, and, consequently, locked away from us financially. To make up for this Mrs. Ord Marshall urgently pressed for more goods for exhibition and sale at Caxton Hall, by which she hoped to continue her usual monthly cheque. Goods, therefore, to the value of £61 9*s*. were despatched in the month of May—thus we were now lying out of £159 17*s*. for this year alone.

In addition, the large orders for lace cabled out in March and despatched in August had to be paid for as the work came in, and so at the end of that month we found our resources drained to the utmost. For though the Caxton Hall cheques amounted to nearly £100 for the first six months of the year, they also had a balance of goods in hand from 1910, which meant that we still had goods there to the value of over £100.

A small loan from the Colonial Treasury relieved our difficulties at this time, and Sir Henry Galway's personal representations at the Colonial Office resulted in a further loan on which to draw in time of need. This, however, has not yet been required.

Our next apparent misfortune was the departure from St. Helena of our late Governor, Sir Henry Galway. He, however, worked so energetically at the Colonial Office, League of Empire, and elsewhere, that we received considerable impetus and benefit in many ways from his labours in our behalf.

The number of workers in the Lace School continues steady, and, during the year under review, few, if any, new workers have been admitted, the aim being to level up those already proved to be worth the trouble, and to drop those who by carelessness and slovenliness were any cost to the school. Consequently, all the work now turned out is of good quality, and will soon be quite uniform, the second-rate workers aiming to receive the ¼*d*. or ½*d*. per yard, of which they are in the meantime deprived.

Regular classes have been dropped, workers only coming to receive advice or whatever instruction is required individually—the assistants being now fully occupied in the business side of the school's affairs—*i.e.*, keeping books of receipts and issues of work, cutting out and preparing this, attending to sales—entries, invoices, packing, posting, &c.

That there is a healthy spirit prevailing is shown by the fact that although the Lace School has given up teaching beginners, the knowledge is being rapidly spread from one to another, especially to younger members of the same family, who are only admitted as workers, if required, and if their ability places them above being any cost to the school.

After four years of experience, I have not the slightest hesitation in affirming that, with a few individual exceptions, the natural talent of the St. Helenian is strongly in favour of the needle rather than the pillow. It is this that appeals to the hereditary taste lying dormant for generations and now awakening with sufficient force to overcome the indolence and apathy produced by physical degeneration and the want of any interest in life to raise them above themselves. This pleasure in their work is very keen, and is clearly shown by their pride in keeping it so beautifully fresh and dainty. This indicates that the houses in which this style of work is produced must also partake in great measure of the same cleanliness and pride in appearance shown in the person of the worker.

It need not be long before the embroidery department could be carried on independently of a school, by means of an agency, which would be responsible for importing prepared linen goods, such as the stamped linen robes at present under consideration by Messrs. Debenham and Freebody, and exporting these when completed to whatever firms may be under arrangement to keep the workers supplied.

A local and qualified sub-agent would necessarily be employed to receive and criticise the work before payment, and to see that the workers' requirements were attended to, and that all was properly invoiced and packed. The Lace School would thus be developed into an industry in one of its branches, and the other would not be long in following suit.

We have a natural and unforced proof of the prevailing taste of the St. Helenian in that it is needlework and embroidery which is spreading, by teaching each other, in preference to lace. Mothers take pride in purchasing material to be turned into handkerchiefs for themselves by their children, and many of these handkerchiefs, nicely hemstitched, as for the Lace School, have little attempts at initials and moon-flower embroidery, drawn out by themselves, to add to their adornment. Scraps of calico are hemstiched up into tray cloths for their own use, often bordered with "rejected" pieces of lace. Their own blouses and pinafores, too, all show what is being done with work the Lace School refuses to accept. All this goes to indicate assured success to the special development of the embroidery department which we are so anxious to see placed on an independent footing of its own.

As one result of Sir Henry Galway's exertions in London, Messrs. Debenham and Freebody have undertaken to send trial orders of linen embroidery to our best workers. One such order, to the value of £26, has already been executed and despatched, and a further order of linen robes, shaped and ready stamped with a new unique design of their own, to be our speciality, is in course of preparation, and will be sent out as soon as possible. Should these be satisfactory, our fifteen first-grade workers will be provided with regular work and thus become the nucleus of our future industry. But these things cannot be hurried, and to have any chance of success they must work themselves out steadily and thoroughly.

Owing to the large orders received and executed during the last twelve months for Messrs. Debenham and Freebody, and other large American firms, we have been obliged to discourage, in great measure, the growing demand from the Cape, and also to discontinue our depôt at Cape Town altogether, owing to the impossibility of supplying this with unpaid-for goods. The Women's Industrial Union, who were our agents there, quite understand the necessity of this step, and to show their good-will are now prepaying all articles they order for sale purposes.

Private orders, sometimes to amounts of £6—£10, are also prepaid, hence the execution of these cannot be disregarded; although Caxton Hall orders always have precedence and no consideration whatever has ever come in the way of executing these trade and other orders, which are the outcome of so much exertion on the part of the League of Empire to help us on to an independent footing.

The number of workers in the Lace School for 1911 stands thus:—

Embroidery workers:—		
First grade	15	
Second grade	9	
	—	24
Lace makers:—		
First grade	36	
Second grade	14	
	—	50
Total		74

These numbers exclude children, who have so little time in which to work, and occasional workers, who do not do good work, which we are always glad to get, but who cannot be depended on for orders.

Over 4,000 yards of lace have been made during the year.

The school's transactions during 1911 were as follows:—

Receipts.

	£	s.	d.
Work sold	550	3	9
Donations	13	0	0
Colonial Government Grant	120	0	0
„ „ Loan	50	0	0
	733	3	9

Payments.

	£	s.	d.
Salaries	176	0	0
Pay of workers	510	11	6
Material	108	4	6
Incidental	48	14	1
	£843	10	1

These figures show a deficit on the year's working of £110 6*s*. 4*d*., or, without the Government grant and loan, of £280 6*s*. 4*d*. Against this, however, must be put the value of work remaining unsold on the 31st December, 1911, amounting to £238.

Whaling.—Unfortunately there seems to be little prospect at present of a satisfactory result from the negotiations, which are still proceeding, for the establishment of a whaling station and factory in Rupert's Valley.

(D.) Shipping.

The number of vessels that called at the Island during the year under review was 64, with a tonnage of 186,420, as compared with 51, and tonnage of 181,071, of the previous year. Among the calling ships were five British men-of-war. Sixteen sailing ships called during the year, and only six were British. Of the remainder, seven were American whalers, which put into the Island for the purpose of giving their crews liberty and in order to take in fresh provisions. Their "catch" amounted to 4,570 barrels of oil and 3,000 lbs of bone.

In addition to the above figures, 19 passing vessels were boarded by licensed traders, being one less than in the previous year.

Thirty-one vessels, with an aggregate tonnage of 141,573 entered and cleared at the port of Jamestown during the year. The cargo discharged by these vessels amounted to 5,893 tons, an increase of 1,582 tons as compared with the previous year.

III.—LEGISLATION.

Three Ordinances were enacted during the year under review—two being in connection with public expenditure, and an Ordinance to amend "The Seamen's Deserters Ordinance, 1895.

IV.—EDUCATION.

A general improvement in the Island's Schools was manifest during the year under review. The number of schools remained at 10, of which three are Government and the remainder Church Schools. The number of children attending the schools during the year was: —

——	Boys.	Girls.	Totals.
Government schools (3)	151	165	316
Church schools (7)	218	171	389
Totals	369	336	705

The arrangement, instituted in January, 1910, under which Mr. Tucker was given general supervision over all the Government Schools has continued to work satisfactorily, and good progress was maintained. The quarterly examinations gave good results, and showed that real progress has been made amongst the children almost without exception.

The pupil teachers' classes, commenced in 1905, continue to give good results. The attendance at these classes during the year under review was exceptionally good, 15 pupil teachers having attended. Of these nine are employed in Government, five in Hussey Charity, and one in the Benevolent Society's Schools. It is satisfactory to note that greater interest and application has been shown by the majority of the non-Government pupil teachers than in the previous year. The Hussey Charity Schools will now have three teachers holding Board of Education certificates.

Miss Girdwood continued to supervise the needlework classes of the several schools, and is able to report satisfactory progress on the whole, especially in the case of the junior school.

The expenditure on Education during the year amounted to £627 6*s*. 9*d*.

V.—GOVERNMENT INSTITUTIONS.

(A.) Hospital.

The Colonial Surgeon reports as follows:—

There were 157 admissions to the hospital during the year, and of these 82 were males and 75 females.

There were four deaths, equivalent to 2·5 per cent. of the admissions. The previous year showed 151 admissions and six deaths.

In 1910 the plan of a small operating room, to be added on to the west verandah on the second floor, was drawn up. The work was not proceeded with, but the need for such a room is keenly felt from time to time. Though operations are not numerous, yet it is undesirable that they should have to be performed in the wards.

The nursing staff was altered by the departure of Miss Woodward, who had completed her three years' service, her place being taken by Miss Perkins, who arrived in December. The Colonial Nursing Association generously continue to supplement the salaries of the nurses they send to the Colony.

(B.) Savings Bank.

At the end of the year under review there were 126 depositors in the Savings Bank, being four less than in 1910. The total deposits during the year amounted to £1,667 as compared with £803 12*s*. 0*d*. in the previous year, an increase of nearly 100 per cent. This increase was not so much due to a revival of trade as to a few depositors having received money from abroad.

The withdrawals were large, though less than in the previous year by £535.

The Bank's revenue for the year amounted to £510 5*s*. 2*d*., and the expenditure to £367 13*s*. 3*d*., thus showing a profit of nearly £143 on the year's transactions.

VI.—JUDICIAL STATISTICS.

(A.) Criminal.

Supreme Court.—There were no cases for trial in this Court during the year under review.

Police Court.—There were 142 cases dealt with in this Court as compared with 240 in 1910—none being of a serious nature. Of this number 24 were under the Road Tax Ordinance, and 29 under the Education Ordinance. There were 17 cases of offences by seamen, and 18 cases of drunkenness—a number considerably less than in any preceding year.

(B.) Prisons.

The number of cases committed to the gaol during the year was 44, two less than in the previous year. The daily average number in gaol was 4·71, being an increase of 1·04 over the previous year—due to the number of convictions of seamen above referred to. Only two men were committed to prison under the Road Tax Ordinance.

The cost of maintaining the gaol during the year amounted to £117 17*s*. 11*d*., being an increase of £13 13*s*. 8*d*. as compared with 1910.

(C.) Police Force.

The force performed its duties satisfactorily during the year. In addition to the 142 cases dealt with by the Police Magistrate in his Court, 112 trivial cases were disposed of by the police.

VII.—VITAL STATISTICS.

(A.) Population.

On the 31st December, 1911, the estimated civil population was 3,482 as compared with 3,441 on the same date a year previous. In addition to the civil population on the date given were 44 persons belonging to the Royal Marine Detachment and 66 crew of the cable ship "Britannia."

There were 186 emigrants and 122 immigrants during the year, as compared with 203 and 27 respectively in 1910. Among the emigrants were 54 domestic servants.

There were 95 births (including two still-born) during the year as compared with 87 (including five still-born) in 1910. The number of illegitimate births was 29, being eight in excess of 1910.

The death-rate was 10·9 per 1,000—a very slight increase over 1910. The total number of deaths was 39, of which six were children under one year of age, and sixteen of persons over 70 years of age.

There were 20 marriages in 1911, as against 22 in the previous year.

(B.) Public Health.

There is nothing noteworthy to record on the state of the public health as compared with the previous year. The rate of mortality was practically the same, namely, 10·8 per 1,000, being 10·7 per 1,000 in 1910.

There were no deaths from zymotic disease, nor were any deaths recorded between the ages of 7 months and 10 years. The infant mortality was 53·7 per 1,000 births, a slight increase on the previous year, which afforded a rate of 48·7 per 1,000 births, though satisfactorily low, as compared with the high infantile mortality in most parts of the world. It is less than half the average rate in the British Isles. The occurrence of a large number of cases of enteritis, and other forms of intestinal disturbance is annually contemporaneous with the fruit season of the Island, pears and peaches being the main feature of that season. The children consume these fruits in large quantities. Few escape some evil effects and many are made seriously ill. The island pear contains a large percentage of cellulose and woody fibre, and when eaten in its entirety, skin and all, as is the common practice, is a cause of many internal ills When cooked it is comparatively harmless though even then should be avoided by anyone with a susceptible digestive system. Dysentery among adults is most prevalent in the fruit season, though there have been fewer cases in recent years.

(C.) Sanitary.

During the year a failure of the water supply to the lower part of Jamestown took place on several occasions. The matter was considered by the Board of Health. The conclusion reached was a recommendation that large storage tanks should be erected

on the wharf from which water for supply of ships could be drawn. This would do away with the necessity of drawing water for ships direct from the main, as at present.

The result of the existing system is that when shipping is being supplied the house services are depleted, owing to the fall of presure in the main.

Water carriage being now the only method of sewage removal in Jamestown, its complete suspension from lack of water, as happened on two or three days, might have very serious consequences to the public health.

A hose, adapted for attachment to the main, to be used for watering the streets in dry weather, was added to the sanitary equipment.

(D.) Climate.

Meteorological Station, Hutt's Gate.

Barometer.—The mean pressure for the year was 28·103 inches, 28·122 inches being the mean in 1910.

Temperature.—The mean temperature was 60·7° as against 56·4° in the previous year. The absolute maximum, 79·0°, was recorded on 30th March; in 1910 78·0° was the maximum on the 1st and 27th March of that year. The lowest maximum was registered on 20th August, being 65·5°; the lowest in 1910 was 64·8° on the 27th October.

The absolute minimum, 50·0°, took place on the 20th August, as against 51·0° on 20th and 23rd August of the previous year.

Rainfall.—The total rainfall for the year under report was 31·650 inches, which is less by 12·730 inches as compared with the total of 1910. The maximum fall occurred on 20th June and read ·850 inches, the corresponding maximum for the previous year having been 1·380 inches on the 8th March. Rain fell on 229 days, being a decrease of 24 days on the number for 1910. The last four months of the year were exceptionally dry—the total fall for that period reaching 3·410 inches only on 40 days.

Wind.—A continuous record of wind was kept during the year. The mean force was 2·0 which is equivalent to 14 miles. August and September were the most windy months. Seven calm days were recorded as against five in 1910.

The following table gives the direction for the year:—

	Days.
S.S.E.	144
S.E.	181
E.S.E.	30
E.	1
S.	2
Calm	7

Jamestown.

Temperature.	1910.	1911.
Mean	73·2°	72·3°
Absolute maximum ...	80·0° on 19th May	80·0° on 22nd Feb.
Absolute minimum ...	65·0° on 20th Sept. and 1st Oct.	65·0° on 11th August and 3rd Oct.

Rainfall.	1910.	1911.
Total	7·43 inches	8·10 inches
Number of rainy days	56	100
Maximum fall	0·43 inches on 1st March.	0·35 inches on 18th May.

The following records of rainfall were kept in addition:—

	Total fall. inches.	Number of days on which rain fell.
Plantation	29·95	... 156
Farm Lodge ...	28·69	... 183
Oak Bank	34·05	... 183

VIII.—POSTAL, TELEGRAPH, AND TELEPHONE SERVICES.

(A.) Post Office.

Revenue.—The postal revenue for the year amounted to £2,445 16*s.* 8*d.*, being an increase of £1,572 12*s.* 4*d.* over the receipts for the previous year. This large increase was almost entirely due to the sale of postage stamps to non-resident collectors and dealers—there having been a great demand for 2½*d.*, 4*d.*, and 6*d.* of the small King's Head issue. It may be noted that only 100 sheets of the 2½*d.* stamp are now remaining unsold. There was also a substantial increase of postage on mail matter, as noted below.

Expenditure.—The expenditure for the year amounted to £472 11*s.* 10*d.*, being an increase of £87 2*s.* 11*d.* over the figures of the previous year. This increase is accounted for by the amount paid in commission (2½ per cent.) to the Chief Clerk and Postmaster on stamps sold to non-residents, and by the cost of printing a new supply of 2½*d.*, 4*d.*, and 6*d.* stamps.

Mail matter.—The following table gives the mail matter dealt with during the year as compared with 1910:—

From the United Kingdom and elsewhere:—

——	1911.	1910.	Increase.
Bags of mails	240	213	27
Parcels	2,687	2,171	516
Registered articles	1,297	1,102	195
Insured letters	27	6	21

To the United Kingdom and elsewhere:—

——	1911.	1910.	Increase.
Bags of mails	135	120	15
Parcels	484	420	64
Registered articles	2,854	2,639	215
Insured letters	16	6	10

Money and Postal Orders:—Transactions under this head were as follows:—

	1911.			1910.		
	£	*s.*	*d.*	£	*s.*	*d.*
Money Orders received...	1,144	0	0	934	18	7
Postal ,, ,, ...	3,327	1	8	1,376	0	10
Money Orders issued ...	1,832	6	6	1,277	16	9
Postal ,, ,, ...	1,745	4	10	1,785	14	0½

Commission received on the above during the year was £43 7*s.* 5*d.*, as compared with £37 1*s.* 8*d.* in 1910.

Parcel Post Rates.—The following reductions in parcel post rates to the countries mentioned came into force in July of the year under review:—

Transvaal and Orange Free State—From 11*d.* *to* 8*d.* per lb.

(B.) Telegraphs.

There were no changes in tariff during the year.

Telephones.—The telephone system continues to work satisfactorily.

IX.—GENERAL OBSERVATIONS.

(A.) Roads.

A sum of £400 was expended during the year under review in maintaining the chief rural roads in repair. Further progress was made with the scheme of gradually replacing surface by covered drains, about 30 drains having been dealt with in the course of the year.

(B.) Land Grants and General Value of Land.

There was no change in the value of land. There was only one grant of land during the year.

Government rents amounted to £764 during the year, as compared with £848 in 1910.

(C.) Rate of Wages and Cost of Living.

The rate of wages remained unchanged, though the cost of living was higher than it has been for many years past. Owing to the bad season both meat and vegetables increased in price. Fish, too, the staple diet of the poorer classes, was scarce, and the supply fell short of the demand. Mackerel went up from the usual price of 3*d.* per dozen to 1*s.* 6*d.* and 2*s.* per dozen. The presence in the island of the emigrants and crew of the wrecked steamship "Papanui," numbering some 500 souls, also caused prices to advance considerably.

(D.) Departments and Institutions.

Public Works Department.

The expenditure of the Public Works Department for the year amounted to £2,149 14*s*. 0*d*., of which £572 4*s*. 4*d*. was under "Works Extraordinary." Of this latter sum, the amount of £74 was expended in the purchase and distribution of food to the poorest families in the Island and in the provision of a meal to all the school children on the occasion of Their Majesties' Coronation. A sum of £248 18*s*. 0*d*. was expended in relief works, and £149 18*s*. 0*d*. in "Renewal of House Services" in Jamestown, 29 properties having been dealt with during the year. Under recurrent expenditure, the most important work was the provision of a new water supply for the houses in the neighbourhood of "Francis Plain."

Poor Board.

The revenue of the Poor Board in 1911 was £851, and the expenditure £846, as against £822 and £783 respectively in the previous year.

Public Market.

The revenue for the year amounted to £92, and the expenditure to £90, as compared with £95 and £88 respectively in 1910.

(E.) Miscellaneous.

The year under review appears to have witnessed an improvement in the economic condition of the Island, and it is hoped that this improvement will be maintained. Much will depend on the progress made by the three industries recently started in the Island. In this connection it is sad to record the death in its infancy of the fish-curing industry, as also the temporary disablement of the fibre industry owing to a shortage of mature leaves, which necessitated shutting down the Government Mill for the first nine months of the year. It is to be hoped that in time the whaling industry may be re-established at St. Helena.

The most important event of the year was the occasion of the Coronation of Their Majesties the King and Queen, which was enthusiastically celebrated throughout the Island. A loyal Address, contained in a silver casket, was presented to His Majesty the King by the inhabitants of the Colony.

Portraits of Their Royal Highnesses the Duke and Duchess of Connaught and Princess Patricia, graciously presented by His Royal Highness the Duke of Connaught to commemorate the Royal Visit of 1910, were received in May of the year under review. The gracious gift is greatly prized by the inhabitants.

In September Lt.-Colonel Sir H. L. Galway, K.C.M.G., D.S.O., left the Colony to take over the administration of the Government of the Gambia.

In the same month the steamship "Papanui," bound to Fremantle, Western Australia, with 364 emigrants on board,

put into Jamestown Harbour on fire. Shortly after anchoring, an explosion occurred and the ship burst into a mass of flame. With the assistance of the cable ship "Britannia" and shore boats all the passengers and crew were safely landed, though very little of the emigrants' belongings were saved. Arrangements had to be improvised for the housing and feeding of some 500 persons, who after a stay of five weeks were sent on to their destination in the s.s. "Opawa." The "Papanui" was totally destroyed and now lies, partially submerged, a total wreck in Jamestown Harbour.

December witnessed the arrival of the detachment of Royal Marines, under the command of Captain G. Mathew, of the Royal Marine Artillery.

H. E. S. CORDEAUX,
Governor and Commander-in-Chief.

The Castle,
St. Helena,
15th April, 1912.

Sketch Map of St Helena.

indicating the

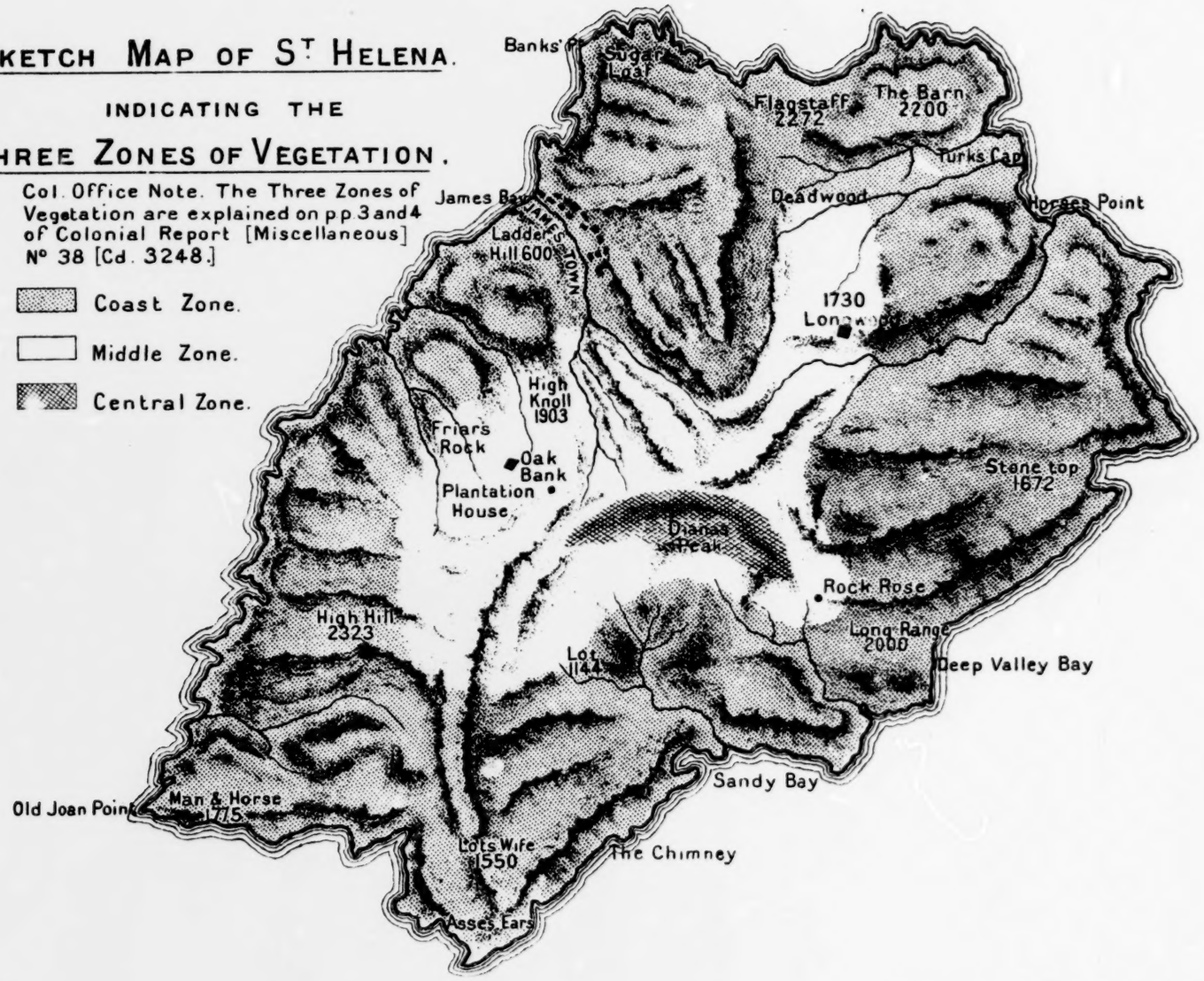
Three Zones of Vegetation.

Col. Office Note. The Three Zones of Vegetation are explained on pp 3 and 4 of Colonial Report [Miscellaneous] N° 38 [Cd. 3248.]

Coast Zone.

Middle Zone.

Central Zone.



Ordnance Survey Office, Southampton, 1912.

COLONIAL REPORTS, &c.

The following recent reports, &c., relating to His Majesty's Colonial Possessions have been issued, and may be obtained from the sources indicated on the title page :—

ANNUAL.

No.	Colony, &c.	Year.
685	Colonial Survey Committee	1910–1911
686	Malta	„
687	Imperial Institute	1910
688	Gold Coast	„
689	Fiji	„
690	Somaliland	„
691	Hong Kong	„
692	Nyasaland	1910–1911
693	Seychelles	1910
694	Sierra Leone	„
695	Southern Nigeria	„
696	Bechuanaland Protectorate	1910–1911
697	Swaziland	„
698	Barbados	„
699	Trinidad and Tobago	„
700	Mauritius	1910
701	Grenada	„
702	British Guiana	1910–1911
703	Jamaica	„
704	Northern Nigeria	„
705	East Africa Protectorate	„
706	British Honduras	1910
707	Tongan Islands Protectorate	„
708	Uganda	1910–1911
709	Straits Settlements...	1910
710	Basutoland	1910–1911
711	Leeward Islands	„
712	St. Vincent	„
713	St. Lucia	1910

MISCELLANEOUS.

No.	Colony, &c.	Subject.
71	Imperial Institute	Foodstuffs.
72	Fiji	Hurricane, 1910.
73	Jamaica	Cayman Islands.
74	Ceylon	Mineral Surveys, 1906–7 and 1907–8.
75	West Indies	Imperial Department of Agriculture.
76	Southern Nigeria	Mineral Survey, 1907–8.
77	St. Vincent	Roads and Land Settlement Fund.
78	Weihaiwei	Census, 1911.
79	Northern Nigeria	Mineral Survey, 1907–8 and 1908–9.
80	Nyasaland	Mineral Survey, 1908–9.
81	Southern Nigeria	Mineral Survey, 1908–9.
82	Imperial Institute	Rubber and Gutta-percha.

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1912.

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No. 756.

ST. HELENA.

REPORT FOR 1912.

(For Report for 1911, *see* No. 714.)

Presented to both Houses of Parliament by Command of His Majesty.
June, 1913.

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No. 756.

ST. HELENA.

(For Report for 1911, *see* No. 714.)

THE GOVERNOR TO THE SECRETARY OF STATE.

The Castle,
St. Helena,
15th May, 1913.

SIR,

I have the honour to transmit herewith the Colony's Blue Book for the year 1912, together with my Report thereon.

I have, &c.,
H. E. S. CORDEAUX,
Governor and Commander-in-Chief.

The Right Honourable
Lewis Harcourt, M.P.,
Secretary of State for the Colonies.

(30384—2.) Wt. 35104—688. 1125 & 90. 6/13. D & S. A 2

ANNUAL REPORT FOR THE YEAR 1912.

I.—FINANCIAL.

(A.) Revenue.

1. The revenue for the year under review, exclusive of a grant-in-aid of £2,000, amounted to £8,042, which, though £989 more than the estimated figure, was less by £580 than the revenue collected during the previous year. This falling off is almost entirely accounted for by a decrease of £520 in Post Office receipts, due to smaller sales of stamps to dealers outside the Colony. There was, also, a decrease of £71 under Interest, caused partly by the sale of stock necessary to meet withdrawals by Savings Bank depositors, and partly by the inability of householders to pay interest on the claims outstanding against them on account of Drainage and Water Services. Other slight decreases under Customs, Fines, and Miscellaneous Receipts amounted in all to £60.

Against these shortfalls there were increases under Licences and Rents, amounting to £45.

2. On the whole the figures of revenue do not compare unfavourably with those of the previous year, and may be taken to indicate that the slight improvement in the Colony's condition which was noticed in last year's Report has been well maintained.

(B.) Expenditure.

3. The expenditure during the year amounted to £9,449, being an increase of £320 on the expenditure of the previous year. Decreases amounted to £439 under various heads, against which have to be put increases amounting to £759, the principal of which were Post Office, £168, and Miscellaneous Services, £502. The former amount includes the cost of printing the new issue of George V. postage stamps, whilst the latter comprises special expenditure in connection with an outbreak of scarlet fever, and additional interest charges on a debt of £6,988 incurred by the Colony with the Crown Agents in connection with the wreck of the s.s. "Papanui" in 1911. The amount, both principal and interest, is properly recoverable from the owners.

(C.) Assets and Liabilities.

4. On the 31st December, 1912, the Colony's assets exceeded the liabilities by £772, which is an improvement of £665 on the figures of the previous year.

5. The Colony's investments on the 31st December, 1912, amounted to £13,235 13*s.* 1*d.*, with a market value on the same date of £11,748 11*s.* 2*d.* Stock to the value of £600 was realised during the year in order to meet withdrawals from the Savings Bank.

Liabilities include a sum of £12,233 8*s.* 9*d.* due to depositors in the Savings Bank, and an overdraft with the Crown Agents for the Colonies of £11,121 15*s.* 10*d.*

(D.) Currency.

6. Bills on the Crown Agents to the amount of £2,100 were issued during the year, as against £3,277 in 1911.

There was no importation of specie, but the amount exported was £1,550, as compared with a net export of specie to the amount of £2,490 in 1911.

The amount of specie introduced and placed in circulation by mail steamers and other vessels is estimated at £1,500.

The amount of cash and Bank of England notes in circulation at the end of the year was approximately £5,000.

II.—TRADE, AGRICULTURE, AND INDUSTRIES.

(A.) Trade.

Revenue.

7. The Customs revenue for the year under report amounted to £3,757 15*s.* 1*d.*, being a slight decrease of £21 as compared with the previous year, but exceeding the estimated revenue by £307 15*s.* 1*d.*

8. With the exception of an inconsiderable decrease of less than £1 under "Warehouse Rent," the only decrease was under "Import Duties" on beer, wines, spirits, and tobacco. The value of bonded goods cleared showed a net decrease of £219, and, consequently, import duties diminished by £166 7*s.* 8*d.*

9. Increases occurred under all other heads, as follows:—

"Wharfage," £42 1*s.* 8*d.*, owing to considerably larger imports of coal and general merchandise.

"Tonnage Dues," £55 15*s.*, due to the same causes as above, and also to large consignment of stores for the marine detachment.

"Water," £48 7*s.* Out of 1,751 tuns supplied to shipping, the two cable ships, "Sherard Osborn" and "Britannia," took 1,107 tuns as against 767 in 1911, and H.M. ships 350 tuns as compared with 221 tuns.

Expenditure.

10. The expenditure for the year amounted to £546 17*s.*, being £38 3*s.* 9*d.* less than in the previous year. A less quantity of coal was taken by H.M. ships, the refund of wharfage amounting to £163 as against £215 in 1911.

Imports.

11. The total value of imports in 1912 amounted to £41,749, being £633 less than in 1911. This figure does not, however, include stores, &c., imported for the marine detachment, the value of which is unknown. If the value of specie is excluded the above decrease of £633 on last year's figures is converted into an increase of £4,647.

12. Comparative statement of the principal imports during the years 1911 and 1912:—

Dutiable articles.	1911.	1912.	Increase.	Decrease.
	£	£	£	£
Beer...	566	607	41	—
Cigars, Cigarettes and Tobacco...	641	549	—	92
Spirits	804	736	—	68
Wines	579	479	—	100
Provisions—				
Beef and Pork ...	642	886	244	—
Butter	1,456	1,767	311	—
Flour	3,370	2,781	—	589
Oilman's stores	7,213	7,105	—	108
Rice	1,630	2,272	642	—
Sugar	2,662	2,329	—	333
Tea	376	410	34	—
Miscellaneous—				
Cement and Lime	232	153	—	79
Chemicals, Drugs, &c. ...	447	607	160	—
Coal and Patent Fuel ...	7,150	8,000	850	—
Drapery and Dry Goods ...	3,448	5,652	2,204	—
Earthen and Glass Ware ...	186	216	30	—
Grain, Seed and Oilcake ...	1,875	1,803	—	72
Hardware, Metals, &c. ...	953	948	—	5
Leather, Boots, &c.	569	512	—	57
Machinery	142	164	22	—
Marine stores	149	238	89	—
Paraffin Oil	701	1,023	322	—
Stationery	394	695	301	—
Sundries	446	620	174	—
Specie	5,310	—	—	5,310

13. The above figures show a net decrease of £219 in the value of dutiable articles imported, such as beer, wines, spirits, and tobacco. The import of these commodities has naturally declined since the departure of the garrison, who were the principal consumers. Fewer and shorter visits by ships, especially men-of-war, during the past year, also probably lessened the demand. On the other hand, imports of "provisions" show a net increase of £200, whilst the increase in value of various imports cleared under "miscellaneous," especially "drapery and dry goods," seems to show that the purchasing power of the community has at any rate not diminished, if it has not increased to a certain extent. The increase under "paraffin oil" is due to the demands of the Government flax mill, which, for the first time since its initiation, has been working continuously throughout the year.

14. The following table shows the comparative value of imports and exports, exclusive of specie, for the six years subsequent to the withdrawal of the garrison:—

	Imports.	Exports.
	£	£
1907	34,364	1,787
1908	35,716	4,585
1909	29,303	5,192
1910	33,915	3,934
1911	37,102	2,159
1912	41,749	4,600

Exports.

15. The total value of exports during 1912 amounted to £6,150, being an apparent decrease of £3,809 as compared with the figures of the previous year, but an actual increase of £2,441 if exports of specie in both years are excluded.

16. The principal exports, as compared with 1911, were:—

	1911.	1912.
	£	£
Fibre and tow	386	3,393
Hides and skins	127	99
Metal, old	—	92
Sheep, oxen, and calves... ...	1,251	502
Specie	7,800	1,550

17. It will be seen from the above figures that the increase in the value of exports is more than accounted for by the increased value of fibre and tow exported by the Government flax mill, which, owing to good average prices obtaining on the London market, was able to keep running throughout the year, and to export the largest quantity of fibre and tow since the mill was started in 1908.

18. The deficiency in the value of live-stock exported is accounted for by the fact that owing to a steadily decreasing stock of sheep in the island, which was further depleted by drought, the local contractors for the supply of sheep to Ascension have had to obtain sheep from the Cape in order to fulfil their contract.

(B.) Agriculture, Stock, Forests, and Gardens.

19. The year under report may generally be regarded as a good one from an agricultural point of view, as compared with the previous year. A return to more normal climatic conditions resulted in better crops all round. Root and grain crops were good, though the potato crop, which is so dependent on timely rainfall, did not come up to expectations, owing to lack of moisture at the right moment. Green vegetables did well, though the supply was not equal to the demand. It is a pity that more attention is not given to this form of industry by small landowners and cottagers, who might, with a minimum of outlay, grow sufficient vegetables both for home consumption and to meet local demands. The crop of hay was both plentiful and good. Pasture was better than it has been for years, and cattle and live-stock generally have done very well, though still suffering, as regards quantity, from the losses incurred in the previous year's drought.

20. The usual free issues of young trees to landowners, free of cost, have been made, though not to the same extent as in the previous year, owing to the nurseries having been adversely affected by untimely droughts. In certain localities the Government forests are suffering from the rapid spread of the white ant, many living trees, especially the fir, being freely infected. Measures are being taken to clear away the infected trees and to substitute young eucalyptus trees, which are generally immune from the ravages of this pest.

21. The sale of fruit from the Maldivia Garden amounted to £20 14*s*. 11½*d*., whilst the sale of trees from Government lands realised £34 6*s*.

The Government pasture lands at " Botley's Lay " produced a revenue of £98 13*s*. 6*d*., against an expenditure of £93 17*s*. 4*d*. Under expenditure a sum of £19 2*s*. 6*d*. was spent in the erection of watering troughs and the clearing away of gorse.

(C.) Industries.

22. *Fibre.*—The year under review did not open too well for the Government flax mill, and with the price of fibre on the London market down to £20 a ton prospects for the ensuing year were not encouraging. Indeed, for the first seven months of the year the mill was only kept running at a loss owing to a continuance of low prices and increased cost of production, due to the rather inferior quality of the present crop of flax leaves as compared with the original plants. Fortunately, however, a sharp and unexpected rise in the fibre market enabled the mill to recoup its previous losses and to continue running until the end of the year, with the following satisfactory results:—

Leaves milled	1,202 tons.
Fibre produced	114½ ,,
Tow ,, ...	35 ,,
Receipts from sale of produce	£3,400
Expenditure...	£3,118

23. From these figures, which are the highest reached since the mill commenced work in 1908, it will be seen that the year's working resulted in a profit of £282, or of £462 if the value of produce unsold on the 31st December, amounting approximately to £180, is added. This result must be regarded as highly satisfactory, and clearly shows that with fair prices for fibre and tow on the London market the mill can be run at a considerable profit. During the year under review the average price of fibre was £25 17*s*., and of tow £16 3*s*. a ton, the maximum prices reached being £32 10*s*. and £18 10*s*. respectively, the highest prices realised since the mill started work.

24. With regard to expenditure, the total amount of £3,118 is made up of the following items:—

	£	£
Purchase of leaves	1,256	
Cartage and local shipping charges ...	223	
Salaries and wages	848	
Miscellaneous	53	
	———	2,380
Freight	399	
Oil	297	
Miscellaneous	42	
	———	738
Total ...		£3,118

25. Of the above items the first four, amounting to £2,380, represent expenditure within the Colony, thus increasing the cash circulation by nearly 48 per cent. Under the item of £1,256 for "purchase of leaves," it has to be noted that during the last five months of the year, when the price of fibre was up, leaves were not purchased at the usual rate of 5 per cent. on the current price of fibre on the London market. Owing to the necessity of recouping losses incurred in milling during the first seven months of the year and of accumulating a reserve of capital against a possible relapse in the fibre market, a temporary arrangement was made whereby growers were paid a fixed price of 23*s.* a ton for their leaves until the mill's financial position should have sufficiently recovered. Had the 5 per cent. system of payment been adhered to throughout the year, expenditure on account of purchase of leaves would have been increased by £200, thus reducing the year's profits to £262. The latter figure should therefore be adopted for purposes of comparison with the profits of previous years.

26. The following table summarizes the transactions of the Government flax mill for the last five years since its institution in 1908:—

—	1908.	1909.	1910.	1911.	1912.
Period of working months ...	12	10	6	2	12
	Tons.	Tons.	Tons.	Tons.	Tons.
Leaves milled	1,056	905	411	172	1,202
Fibre produced	119	126	46½	21	114½
Tow produced	36	39½	13	5½	35
	£	£	£	£	£
Receipts from sale of produce...	3,090	3,304	1,327	—	3,400
Expenditure	2,845	3,072	1,380	550	3,118
Average prices on the London Market.					
(*a*) Fibre	26	23½	24	—	25 17/20
(*b*) Tow	9½	9½	11	14½	16 3/20

27. It will be observed that the only two years during which the mill has been able to run continuously—with the exception of casual stoppages for repairs and adjustments—are 1908, the first year of the mill's working, and 1912 the year under review. In these two years, when the price of fibre averaged £26 and £25 17*s.*, revenue exceeded expenditure by £245 and £262, respectively; thus showing a profit in each year of approximately 6 per cent. on the initial outlay of £4,070. With regard to the remaining three years, in 1909, although two months' work were lost owing to the breakdown of the engine, a profit of £232 was made on the ten months' working, whilst in 1910 and 1911 scarcity of leaves, together with low prices in the fibre market, reduced the mill's working period to six and two months, respectively, and resulted in losses amounting to £53 and £550. The conclusion to be derived from these figures is that the two main obstacles to the continuous running of the mill at a considerable profit are failure of the supply of flax leaves and

depression of the fibre market. With regard to the former, it should be recollected that for the first two years of its existence the mill was dependent for its supply of leaves on the flax plants which had been already in existence on the island for the previous 20 or 30 years. Though excellent in quality these plants were necessarily limited in quantity. The new plants which had been put down in 1907 and 1908 could not be ready for milling for 3 or 4 years at the least. Consequently whilst the old plants were exhausted early in 1910 the new crop of leaves was not fit for milling until the beginning of the year under review. This new crop, as regards quality, was somewhat inferior to the original crop. From the figures given in the preceding table it will be seen that whereas 10 tons of leaves of the older growth produced $1\frac{9}{20}$ tons of fibre and tow, the same quantity of the new crop produced only $1\frac{4}{20}$ tons. This difference in quality of course increases the cost of production. As regards quantity, the new crop has been proved to be highly satisfactory. Much useful experience has been gained in the course of the last five years as to the methods of planting and cutting most suitable to local conditions. For instance, it has been found that the old plan of planting in continuous trenches ensures quicker and more luxuriant growth than the New Zealand method of planting in separate holes six feet apart. On the other hand, the old wasteful method of wholesale reaping has been abandoned, only the outer and longer leaves of each plant now being cut, thus leaving the younger leaves, which would otherwise be wasted, to mature. As a result, though some 1,200 tons of leaves, varying from 4 to 6 feet in length were treated by the mill during the year, it is estimated that at the end of year under review there were still some 3,500 tons of leaves ready, or nearly ready, for cutting. This figure is exclusive of some 2,000 tons, owned by a private firm, which may be required to feed a private mill to be erected and which is not therefore taken into calculation.

28. Taking the average annual requirements of the mill at 1,200 tons, this means that the new crop is sufficient to last for another three years. As suckers have been regularly planted every year, and assuming the period of mature growth to be four years at the most, a fresh crop of leaves will be ready for cutting as soon as the present crop is exhausted. Thus, with a proper rotation of crops now established, thereby assuring a sufficient and continuous supply of leaves, one of the two principal obstacles in the way of continuous and profitable working has now disappeared.

29. With regard to the other adverse factor, namely, depression of the fibre market, although it cannot be altogether eliminated its effect can at any rate be minimised. Past experience has established the fact that with the present cost of production the Government flax mill cannot work at a profit when the price of fibre on the London market falls much below £23 a ton. Consequently if the profitable working of the mill is to be ensured against a fall in price below this figure the prime cost of production must be reduced, either by introducing a cheaper form of power or by paying less for leaves. As regards the latter alternative, I doubt whether the majority of growers, who have

to transport their leaves to the mill from long distances, could afford for any length of time to accept a lower rate than the present 5 per cent. on the market price of fibre. As it is, profits are very small, and without regular profits growers will have neither the means nor the inclination to extend their plantings, and development of the industry will be checked. On the other hand, the introduction of a cheaper form of power would appear to offer a more certain and generally profitable means of reducing cost of production. With the present 32 B.H.P. oil-engine the cost of oil alone works out at 30*s.* for every ton of fibre produced. As compared with this, it is estimated that the cost of fuel for a 40 B.H.P. suction gas-engine would be 45 per cent. less, even if anthracite coal at 60*s.* a ton were used. If wood or the waste vegetable by-products of the mill could be utilized the cost of production would be still further reduced. Besides this advantage, a second mill with a more economical form of power in the western part of the island would, if erected, not only be able to deal with a large quantity of leaves, which at present it barely pays to transport to the distant mill at Longwood, but would also be the means of opening up considerable tracts of land suitable for fibre cultivation. In short, the introduction of a cheaper form of power has such an important bearing on the future of the industry that the employment of a suction gas plant is under consideration, and a consignment of the waste vegetable products of the mill has been sent to England in order that its suitability as a subsidiary fuel may be tested.

30. In conclusion, it may be safely asserted that the fibre industry has now successfully passed through the experimental stage, the cost of which has been rightly borne by Government. The time has now arrived when, under ordinary conditions, the development of the industry should properly be left to private enterprise and capital. But, unfortunately, in this Colony conditions are not ordinary, and if sufficient enterprise be forthcoming the means of gratifying it are wanting, except in the case of one or two local firms. One of these, it is satisfactory to note, is likely to take advantage of the experience gained to start a private mill, but, though the erection of a second mill must be of undoubted benefit to the industry and to the Colony generally, it will not, from its situation, affect the western portion of the island, where, as already pointed out, the need and possibility of development is greatest.

31. *Lace-making.*—The following figures give the transactions of the Government lace school during the year under review:—

Receipts.

	£	*s.*	*d.*
Work sold	588	1	0
Donations	2	0	0
Colonial Government Grant	120	0	0
	£710	1	0

Expenditure.

	£	*s.*	*d.*
Salaries	193	15	0
Pay of workers	381	16	3
Material	65	4	3
Incidentals	58	15	9
	£699	11	3

32. The above figures show a small profit of £10 9*s.* 9*d.* on the year's working, or, without the Government grant, a deficit of £109 10*s.* 3*d.* Against this must be put the value of goods unsold on the 31st December, 1912, amounting to £140.

33. It will be seen from the above statement that the Government lace school is not yet a self-supporting institution. Indeed, for the greater part of the year under review it has been a hard struggle to make both ends meet, and it has only been by the exercise of the strictest economy in receiving and paying for work that the necessity of another loan from the Colonial Government has been avoided. The industry has still been suffering from the want of a sound and permanent trade connection, which alone can give it the stability it needs. Both Miss Girdwood and Mrs. Ord Marshall have been as usual indefatigable in endeavouring to secure this object, the former in South Africa and the latter in the United Kingdom; and I am glad to say that as a result of their efforts a most promising start has been made in both directions. In England a special committee of influential ladies has been formed through the instrumentality of Mrs. Ord Marshall and the "League of the Empire" with the special object of furthering the interests of the St. Helena lace industry. The members of this committee have kindly undertaken to hold a sale of St. Helena lace and embroideries once a year, or oftener if necessary, in a suitable house in London. At the same time they very generously presented the school with a costly gift of lace and embroidery to serve as patterns of articles likely to be most readily saleable. These sales, if successful, should greatly benefit the school, which will get the full price for its work, instead of having to pay a commission as in the case of trade orders. As a result of this movement it is hoped in course of time to evolve a distinctive type of St. Helena lace and embroidery work of a more advanced style, such as will command a ready sale and good price in the English market, without fear of being undersold by foreign competition, as has hitherto been the case. It will take a little time before a sufficient degree of proficiency in the new style of lace is reached, and in the meantime the school will have to depend for support on the continued output and sale of its present style of lace and embroideries. Fortunately, a promising market for these has been found in South Africa, thanks to the efforts of the manageress, Miss Girdwood, who, with her usual single-hearted devotion to the interests of the lace industry, employed a large portion of her well-earned leave in South Africa in exhibiting the work of the

school. As a result, in addition to a number of private orders, there appear to be good prospects of obtaining a profitable trade connection in South Africa, where the St. Helena lace is apparently much appreciated. If our hopes in this direction are realised, South Africa will prove a valuable market, which will serve to keep the school going until we are ready to supply the rather advanced styles of lace and embroideries required by the League of the Empire Lace Committee in London. With regard to the general work of the school Miss Girdwood writes: "A large number of the best workers have severed their connection with the lace school, some for the purpose of taking service with the families of the island, others have gone to the Cape, and others have married, so that the school shows a rather less number of workers than last year—the school children not leaving school in sufficient numbers to make up the leakage—but all are working steadily. On the whole the outlook for 1913 is a most hopeful one, and everything points to steady progress. There are 50 regular workers on the roll, of which 30 are lace-workers and 20 embroideresses. There are in addition the school children and occasional adult workers, who bring the number up to about 100, but these two groups have not much spare time on account of school and domestic duties, though what work they do is good."

34. During the year Miss Girdwood was obliged to take a well-earned holiday, her health having suffered severely from long and assiduous work in the somewhat trying climate of Jamestown, where the headquarters of the lace school are situated. During her absence the honorary secretary, Mr. Tucker, kindly undertook the general supervision of the school as well as the duties of the honorary treasurer during the absence on leave of Mr. Liddy. My thanks are due to both these gentlemen for their services as honorary secretary and honorary treasurer, which they continue to give gratuitously to the school.

35. *Whaling.*—The long expected revival of the whaling industry appears to be no nearer accomplishment, the present concessionnaire having met with unforeseen difficulties in forming a company for the proposed establishment of a whaling station and factory in Rupert's Valley. Apart from the keen disappointment caused to numbers of men who for the last two years have been patiently awaiting employment in the new industry, any failure of the enterprise could only be regarded as a calamity in view of the important bearing which it must have on the future prosperity of the island. There can be little doubt as to the suitability of St. Helena as a whaling centre, and it is difficult to account for the apparent diffidence now shown in reviving what was at one time a profitable industry.

(D.) Shipping.

36. The number of vessels that called at the island during the year under review was 60, being four less than in the previous year. The tonnage was 157,707, as against a tonnage of 186,420 in 1911. Only two British men-of-war visited the island, namely, H.M. ships "Hermes" and "Pandora." Nineteen sailing vessels, of which only four were British, touched at the port.

This figure includes nine whalers, who put in for bunker coal and provisions and for giving their men liberty ashore. Their "catch" amounted to 2,115 barrels of oil.

37. In addition to the above figures, 13 vessels called off the port to signal and to trade with the licensed boatmen. By this means masters of passing vessels are enabled to obtain fresh vegetables and to post letters without anchoring. Some 190 letters were posted through this channel during the year under review.

38. Thirty-one vessels entered and cleared at the port of Jamestown during the year. The cargo shipped and discharged by these vessels amounted to 7,008 tons, as compared with 5,893 tons in the previous year.

III.—LEGISLATION.

39. Seven Ordinances were enacted during the year under review, two of which were in connection with public expenditure. Of the remainder, Nos. 2 and 5 regulated the sale of bread by weight, No. 4 was enacted with a view to regulating the prospective whale fishery in St. Helena, whilst No. 7 authorises the Governor in Council to make regulations governing the use of wireless telegraphy in the territorial waters of the Colony.

Three Proclamations were issued during the year.

IV.—EDUCATION.

40. The number of children attending the schools during the year was:—

—	Boys.	Girls.	Totals.
Government schools	137	178	315
Church schools	196	153	349

41. Despite the interruption caused by the scarlet fever epidemic, which necessitated the closing of all schools for some three months in the year, the general standard of work has been well maintained. The quarterly examinations have revealed weak points, which have been remedied during succeeding quarters. There are practically no children who do not show sound progress in the three R's. Those promoted to higher standards during the year have done good work, whilst the few failures retained in their classes at the beginning of the year have shown much improvement.

42. The system of oral instruction, which was introduced some few years ago, continues to make good headway, and is responsible for much of the good progress made. The introduction of

some form of manual instruction combined with the object lesson would be a useful addition to the present curriculum, and it is hoped to make a beginning in this direction next year.

43. Mr. Tucker's classes for pupil teachers continued to be well attended by teachers both from Government and from Church schools, and satisfactory progress was made, although the classes had to be temporarily suspended during the prevalence of the scarlet fever epidemic. I attach much importance to the success of these classes, on which depends the gradual evolution of a thoroughly competent teaching staff, capable of ensuring continuity and uniformity in the present system of education. That system is an excellent one so far as it goes, but, being purely elementary, it fails in so far as it is at present without its natural complement, namely, either secondary education or technical instruction. Of the two alternatives there can be no doubt that the latter is the preferable, as being more suitable to the needs of this Colony, both immediate and prospective. I have already alluded elsewhere in this Report to the yearly increasing scarcity of skilled labour of every description and the consequent difficulty and delay experienced in the execution of public works of the most ordinary description. If means were forthcoming for providing instruction in handicrafts to the boys, whose education is at present considered complete when they leave the elementary schools at the age of 14, not only would the public service of the Colony benefit but the rising generation would be equipped with the means of making their way in the world in the event of home employment failing. In the case of the girls of the island the need of instruction in practical household economy is hardly less pressing, though the lace school is a valuable complement to the instruction in needlework which they now receive in all the elementary schools, and provides employment and interest to many after leaving school. The fact that the needlework classes are personally supervised by the manageress of the lace school ensures continuity of interest between the two.

V.—GOVERNMENT INSTITUTIONS.

(A.) Hospitals.

44. There were 167 admissions to the hospital during the year, of which 87 were treated in the male ward. The number of admissions shows an increase of 10 over the figure of the previous year.

There were nine deaths, a percentage of 5·3, as compared with four deaths and a percentage of 2·5 in 1911.

45. The Hospital Emergency Fund continues to be of the greatest service in assisting the poorer patients to defray hospital charges. The Fund, which is formed entirely of voluntary contributions, is thoroughly deserving of support; the benefits which it confers on the poorer classes cannot be overestimated.

46. There has been no change in the nursing staff during the year under review; Miss Hart has continued to show her usual zeal and devotion to her duties as lady superintendent—a position of exceptional difficulty and responsibility in this Colony.

47. The Colonial Surgeon was granted six months' leave of absence during the year, and his duties were admirably performed by Doctor Attlee.

(B.) Savings Bank.

48. There were 135 depositors on the bank's books at the end of the year under review, as compared with 126 in the preceding year.

49. The total deposits for the year amounted to £1,880 1*s*., an increase of £212 13*s*. over 1911, though about £500 represented insurance moneys received in trust by executors and therefore liable to be withdrawn at any moment.

Withdrawals amounted to £2,548 10*s*. 9*d*., being less by £736 5*s*. 7*d*. than in the previous year.

50. The bank's revenue for the year was £449 9*s*., or £60 16*s*. 2*d*. less than in 1911; invested capital in the hands of the Crown Agents having been £782 less than in the preceding year.

Expenditure amounted to £365 11*s*. 3*d*., showing a profit on the year of £83 17*s*. 9*d*.

51. The amount to the credit of depositors on the 31st December, 1912, was £12,233 8*s*. 9*d*. Against this sum stock to the value (purchase price) of £13,235 13*s*. 1*d*. is invested.

VI.—Judicial Statistics.

(A.) Criminal.

52. *Supreme Court.*—No cases were committed for trial before the Supreme Court during the year under review.

Police Court.—The Police Magistrate dealt with 130 cases, as compared with 135 in the previous year; of this number 39 were prosecutions under the Road Tax Ordinance, and 18 under the Education Ordinance. In addition to the above there were 117 cases of a trivial nature which were disposed of by the police without going into court.

There were six cases of flogging during the year, two of these being convictions under the Juvenile Smoking Ordinance.

(B.) Prisons.

53. Thirty-one prisoners were committed to the gaol during the year, being 13 less than in the previous year. The daily average number in gaol decreased from 4·71 in 1911 to 2·67 during the year under review. The cost of maintaining the gaol was £118 0*s*. 4*d*.

One prisoner received 24 hours' solitary confinement for misconduct.

(C.) Police Force.

54. The force performed its duties satisfactorily during the year; one case of misconduct on the part of a member of the force was reported and dealt with during the year.

VII.—VITAL STATISTICS.

(A.) Population.

55. The estimated civil population on the 31st December, 1912, amounted to 3,519. To this figure must be added the Royal Marine Detachment and crews of shipping in port, numbering 49 and 154 respectively; thus bringing the population on the last day of the year to 3,722. The civil population shows an increase of 37—the number of emigrants, 90, exceeding the number of immigrants, 71, by 19 (the excess in 1911 was 64), whilst on the other hand there were 100 births (civil) as against 44 deaths registered in 1912, thus giving a net increase of 37. There were also four births registered amongst the Royal Marine Establishment, thus making the total number of births 104, as compared with 93 in 1911.

56. The birth-rate in civil population works out at 28·4 per 1,000. Illegitimate births registered amounted to 23, being six less than in the previous year.

57. The death-rate amongst the civil population was somewhat high, being 12·5 per 1,000, as against 10·9 per 1,000 in 1911. There were 44 deaths in all, two of which were due to accidents. Twenty deaths were of persons over the age of 70, one of whom had reached the advanced age of 98.

58. Marriages solemnised during the year numbered 26, as against 20 in 1911.

(B.) Public Health.

59. The general health of the island during the year has been good, although the death-rate was 12·5 per 1,000, which is 1·6 per 1,000 higher than in 1911. This increase cannot be ascribed to any particular cause, being mainly due to deaths from old age. On the other hand, the infant mortality rate was only 9·61 per 1,000, calculated on the number of registered births. These figures show a marked decrease on the previous year, the rate for which was 53·7 per 1,000 births.

There were no deaths from zymotic disease.

60. An outbreak of scarlet fever occurred in the latter part of the year. The disease first appeared in August, and, owing to the prompt and stringent measures taken to prevent dissemination, was for a long time confined to Jamestown. All cases were isolated in the Military Hospital, which was specially set apart for the purpose, and all infected material and buildings were thoroughly disinfected. Latterly, however, one or two cases appeared in the western country districts. Up to the end of the

year the total number of cases amounted to 31. Most of these were of a mild type and no deaths occurred. It has been impossible to trace the origin of the outbreak, the last instance having occurred in 1903.

(C.) Sanitary.

61. Various matters of minor importance have been considered and dealt with by the Board of Health. Effectual supervision is exercised over slaughter-houses and mineral water factories.

There has been one prosecution under the Public Health Ordinance during the year.

62. The drainage system is generally satisfactory, though the water supply, on which its full efficiency depends, has on more than one occasion proved deficient when shipping has to be supplied in any large quantity. As the result of exhaustive tests which have been carried out it seems probably that the erection of storage tanks on the wharf would be the best solution of the difficulty, but in view of the cost that would be involved it has been considered desirable to await expert advice, which will shortly be available.

(D.) Climate.

Meteorological Station, Hutt's Gate.

63. *Barometer.*—The mean pressure for the year was 28·098 inches, as compared with 28·103 inches in 1911.

64. *Temperature.*—The mean temperature was 61·6° as against 60·7° in the previous year. The absolute maximum recorded was 78·5° on the 1st, 9th, and 12th of February. In 1911 79·0° was the maximum and was observed on the 30th March of that year. The lowest maximum, 65·5°, occurred on the 20th August.

The absolute minimum registered was 50·1° on the 9th September, as against 50·0° on the 20th August in 1911.

65. *Rainfall.*—The total rainfall was 44·340 inches, being an increase of 12·59 inches over 1911, which was an exceptionally dry year. The maximum fall occurred on the 10th May and measured 1·28 inches. The maximum for the previous year was ·85 inches on the 20th June. The number of days on which rain fell totalled 275, being 46 more than in the previous year. Generally speaking, climatic conditions throughout the year were normal, with the exception of August, which, though usually a wet, windy month, was particularly dry and calm, having the distinction of holding the lowest record of rainfall for the year, namely, ·96 inches. On the 10th of the same month a "clear sky" was recorded, a most unusual observation at the Meteorological Station on any day of the year at 9 a.m., and more particularly so in August, which month is always very cloudy at the hour of observation.

66. *Wind.*—The mean force for the year was 2·2, which represents a velocity of 14 miles per hour—this being the normal figure. The windiest month was November. Ten calm days were recorded, four of which were in August—an experience which is quite unique.

The direction of the wind is given in the following table:—

	Days.
S.E.	195
S.S.E.	139
E.S.E.	19
S.	3
Calm	10

Jamestown.

Temperature.	1911.	1912.
Mean	72·5°	72·4°
Absolute maximum ...	80·0° on 22nd Feb.	80·0° on 27th Feb.
Absolute minimum ...	65·0° on 11th Aug. and 3rd Oct.	66·0° on 15th Aug. and 1st Sept.
Rainfall.	**1911.**	**1912.**
Total	8·10 ins.	9·21 ins.
Number of rainy days	100	97
Maximum fall	0·35 ins. on 18th May.	0·55 ins. on 10th May

Private Stations.

67. The following statistics have been compiled from records kept by residents in different parts of the island:—

—	Total Rainfall.	Number of rainy days.	Maximum fall.	Date.
	inches.			
Plantation	35·08	202	2·04	5th June.
Farm Lodge	37·92	213	2·41	"
Oak Bank	45·27	218	2·12	"
Willowdene	35·24	208	1·55	"
The Briars	25·10	216	1·38	"

VIII.—POSTAL, TELEGRAPH, AND TELEPHONE SERVICES.

(A.) Post Office.

68. *Revenue.*—The postal revenue for the year amounted to £1,952 11*s.* 11*d.*, being £521 5*s.* 8*d.* less than the receipts of the previous year. Nearly the whole of this decrease is due to a falling off in the sale of stamps to non-resident stamp collectors. In October the whole remaining stock of stamps of the King Edward VII. issue, amounting to £37,170, for which there had been a large demand by dealers, was destroyed, and the new King George V. issue was brought into use.

69. *Expenditure.*—The expenditure for the year amounted to £640 15*s.* 11*d.*, being £223 9*s.* 1*d.* in excess of the previous year's expenditure. This excess was chiefly due to the cost of printing

the new issue of stamps above referred to. There was a decrease of £12 15*s.* 4*d.* on the amount paid in commission (2½ per cent.) to the Postmaster and Chief Clerk on stamps sold to non-residents.

70. *Mail matter.*—The following figures give the mail matter dealt with during the year under review as compared with 1911:—

From the United Kingdom and elsewhere:—

—	1912.	1911.	Increase.	Decrease.
Bags of mails	247	240	7	—
Parcels	2,769	2,687	82	—
Registered articles	1,469	1,297	172	—
Insured letters	7	27	—	20

To the United Kingdom and elsewhere:—

Bags of mails	121	135	—	14
Parcels	413	484	—	71
Registered articles	2,898	2,854	44	—
Insured letters	15	16	—	1

Money and Postal Orders.—Transactions under this head were as follows:—

	1912.			1911.		
...	£	*s.*	*d.*	£	*s.*	*d.*
Money orders received ...	1,002	2	6	1,144	0	0
Postal ,, ,, ...	4,352	10	0	3,327	1	8
Money orders issued	2,558	8	7	1,832	6	6
Postal ,, ,, ...	2,772	0	1½	1,745	4	10

Commission received on the above transactions amounted to £53 3*s.* 1*d.*, as compared with £43 7*s.* 5*d.* in the previous year.

(B.) Telegraphs.

71. There were no changes in tariff during the year under review.

(C.) Telephones.

72. The telephone system, which is entirely maintained by private subscribers, continues to work satisfactorily, and affords an almost indispensable means of communication.

IX.—General Observations.

(A.) Roads.

73. A sum of £400 was expended during the year in maintaining the principal rural roads in repair. Owing to the lack of suitable covering material rather less progress than usual was made with the work of gradually replacing surface drains by culverts, and work had to be confined to general repairs, and

especially to stone breaking. At the latter a large number of women were employed.

In addition to the above a sum of £60 was expended in keeping the streets of Jamestown in order.

74. The amount collected under the "Road Tax Ordinance" during the year was £86 6*s*. 6*d*., or £4 19*s*. less than in the previous year. The tax was paid by 575 males as compared with 608 in the previous year; the decrease of 33 being due to emigration, deaths, and exemptions. There were 39 prosecutions for non-payment, as compared with 24 in the previous year.

(B.) Land Grants and General Value of Land.

75. There were no grants of land during the year and no transfers of ownership. The value of land has remained the same, though rents for Government properties amounted to £813, as compared with £764 in 1911.

(C.) Rates of Wages and Cost of Living.

76. There was no improvement in the rate of wages, which remained at the low figure which has obtained since the withdrawal of the garrison in 1906. The ordinary wage for casual labour is 1*s*. 6*d*. a day. Unskilled labourers permanently employed by the Public Works Department and other Government institutions are paid at the rate of 2*s*. a day. Labour on the Government roads and on relief works is paid for at the lower rate of 1*s*. 6*d*. a day, thus ensuring that as large a number of persons as possible may receive an opportunity of obtaining employment. The 1*s*. 6*d*. wage is admittedly a very low one, but if a higher wage were given it would mean that a less number of men would receive employment. The whole question of wages is one of supply and demand, and until regular work can be found for the large number of unemployed in the town districts no material improvement in the rate of wages can be expected.

77. The cost of the actual necessaries of life, as sold by retail in the shops, was higher than in the preceding year. The reason for this is not far to seek. Competition is practically non-existent, there being only two importers of such necessaries as rice, sugar, and salted meat, and the prices are the same; the quality not being the best. The price of fresh meat was higher by at least 20 per cent., and is likely to go higher still. Only a few years ago beef was selling at 5*d*. or 6*d*. a pound; it is now 10*d*. a pound. Fish was scarce, mainly owing to deliberate indolence on the part of the fishermen, who purposely keep supplies low in order to keep the price up.

78. With wages at a low figure and the price of staple foods increased the year was a hard one for the poorer classes.

(D.) Departments and Institutions.

Public Works Department.

79. The expenditure for the year amounted to £1,977 2*s*. 9*d*., of which £400 was under "Works Extraordinary." No special works were undertaken, efforts being confined to preserve ordinary efficiency. The Department's work in all branches is greatly

handicapped by the absence of skilled labour, such as carpenters, plumbers, and masons. This causes much difficulty and delay in carrying out ordinary repairs and works of the simplest description. Lack of supervision is also seriously felt, especially in connection with road works and repairs. Owing to the difficult nature of the country it is practically impossible to exercise constant supervision over the scattered gangs of labourers working on the roads in different parts of the island. A system of selecting the best workman from each gang to act as foreman has been tried, but the results have not been encouraging, owing to the difficulty of inculcating a sense of responsibility as between social equals.

80. Of the £400 expended under "Works Extraordinary" £150 was expended in relief works, a large number of men and women having in this way been provided with employment on petty works of general utility. In addition, a sum of £136 was expended on the renewal of house services in Jamestown, though this work was much retarded by the want of skilled labour in plumbing.

Poor Board.

81. The revenue of the Poor Board for the year amounted to £837 14*s*. 1*d*., and the expenditure to £796 11*s*. 3*d*., as compared with £851 and £846 respectively in the previous year.

Public Market.

82. The revenue for the year amounted to £78 15*s*. 8*d*., or £13 4*s*. 4*d*. less than in the previous year. On the other hand, expenditure amounted to £86 13*s*. 3*d*., or a reduction of £3 6*s*. 9*d*. At the close of the year the market accounts showed a balance credit of £38 18*s*. 2*d*.

(E.) Miscellaneous.

83. The most noteworthy feature of an uneventful year was the satisfactory progress made by the fibre industry, which may now be said to be firmly established. For the first time since its commencement in 1908 the Government flax mill has been kept running continuously throughout the year, and during that period paid out locally no less than £2,380; thus increasing the cash circulation in the Colony by 48 per cent. The benefit to the community as a whole must have been considerable, and is evidenced by such facts as increased imports, a larger number of depositors in the Savings Bank, and smaller exports of specie. All these may be taken as hopeful indications of improved economic conditions, which, with a profitable industry, now established and capable of considerable development, should still further improve in future years.

84. Unfortunately the benefits accruing from the fibre industry to the community in general and to the rural population in particular do not affect the town population as far as the labouring classes are concerned. In Jamestown and the adjoining districts the unemployment problem remains still unsolved, and the resulting distress among the poorer classes has been as acutely felt as ever. Without regular employment or occupation the

Sketch Map of St Helena.

indicating the

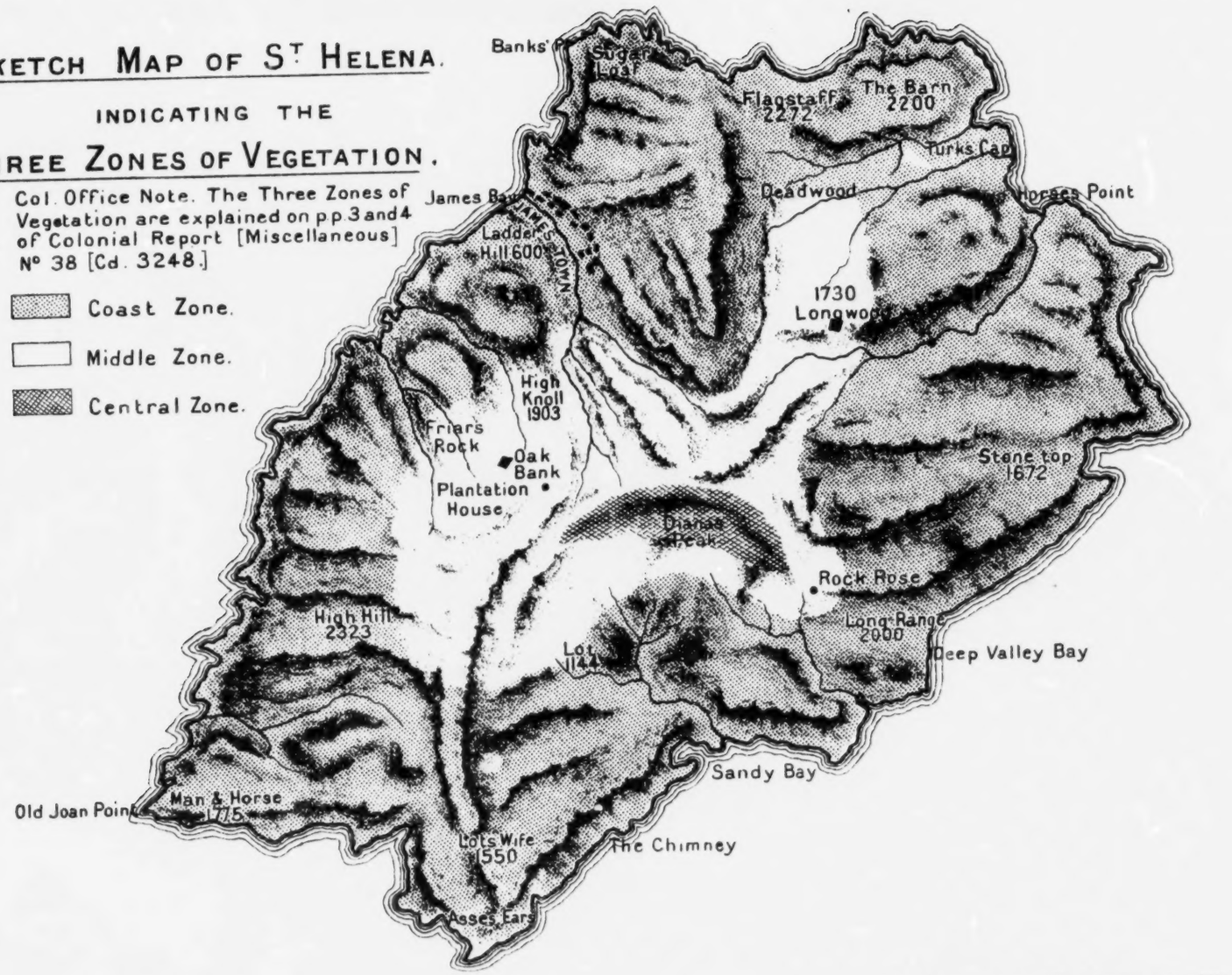
Three Zones of Vegetation.

Col. Office Note. The Three Zones of Vegetation are explained on pp 3 and 4 of Colonial Report [Miscellaneous] N° 38 [Cd. 3248.]

Coast Zone.

Middle Zone.

Central Zone.



Ordnance Survey Office, Southampton, 1913.

town labourer has to depend on casual jobs of work in connection with shipping as the only means of eking out a living. Under the most favourable conditions this is but a precarious source of livelihood, and when a bad year occurs and shipping is scarce, as was the case in 1912, it can hardly be described as a livelihood at all. It is, of course, quite possible that next year will provide better opportunities for obtaining this kind of casual employment, but even so the improvement can only be regarded as temporary, and will merely serve to foster the present system of hand-to-mouth existence, which, though inevitable under existing conditions, is none the less demoralising. Until regular work, such as would be provided by a local industry, corresponding to the fibre industry in the country, is found for the town labourer no permanent improvement in his material and moral condition can well be looked for. For the last two years hopes in this direction have been centred on a proposal to revive the whaling industry, and though, for reasons given elsewhere in this Report, the scheme has not yet materialised, there are good grounds for believing that the coming year will see a start made. If these expectations are realised and the undertaking proves a success the problem of unemployment in Jamestown, where it has always been most acute, will be in a fair way towards solution. With two industries in operation and providing employment in both town and country there should be no fear of a recurrence of that economic depression under which the Colony has been labouring since the withdrawal of the garrison in 1906.

H. E. S. CORDEAUX,
Governor and Commander-in-Chief.

The Castle,
St. Helena,
15th May, 1913.

COLONIAL REPORTS, &c.

The following recent reports, &c., relating to His Majesty's Colonial Possessions have been issued, and may be obtained from the sources indicated on the title page :—

ANNUAL.

No.	Colony, &c.	Year.
724	Sierra Leone	1911
725	Gold Coast	„
726	Turks and Caicos Islands	„
727	Fiji	„
728	Bechuanaland Protectorate	1911–1912
729	Basutoland	„
730	Colonial Survey Committee	„
731	Malta	„
732	Nyasaland	„
733	British Honduras	1911
734	Gilbert and Ellice Islands	1910
735	Southern Nigeria	1911
736	Somaliland	1911–1912
737	Imperial Institute	1911
738	Northern Nigeria	„
739	Jamaica	1911–1912
740	Swaziland	„
741	Bahamas	„
742	Grenada	1911
743	Uganda	1911–1912
744	Mauritius	1911
745	Trinidad and Tobago	1911–1912
746	British Guiana	„
747	St. Vincent	„
748	Barbados	„
749	Leeward Islands	„
750	Straits Settlements	1911
751	East Africa Protectorate	1911–1912
752	St. Lucia	„
753	Gilbert and Ellice Islands Protectorate	1911
754	Cayman Islands (Jamaica)	1911–1912
755	Gibraltar	1912

MISCELLANEOUS.

No.	Colony, &c	Subject.
72	Fiji	Hurricane, 1910.
73	Jamaica	Cayman Islands.
74	Ceylon	Mineral Survey 1906–7 and 1907–8.
75	West Indies	Imperial Department of Agriculture.
76	Southern Nigeria	Mineral Survey 1907–8.
77	St. Vincent	Roads and Land Settlement Fund.
78	Weihaiwei	Census, 1911.
79	Northern Nigeria	Mineral Survey, 1907–8 and 1908–9.
80	Nyasaland	Mineral Survey, 1908–9.
81	Southern Nigeria	Mineral Survey, 1908–9.
82	Imperial Institute	Rubber and Gutta-percha.
83	Southern Nigeria	Mineral Survey, 1910.
84	West Indies	Preservation of Ancient Monuments.

COLONIAL REPORTS—ANNUAL.

No. 799.

ST. HELENA.

REPORT FOR 1913.

(For Report for 1912, see No. 756.)

Presented to both Houses of Parliament by Command of His Majesty.
July, 1914.

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No. 799.

ST. HELENA.

(For Report for 1912, see No. 756.)

THE GOVERNOR TO THE SECRETARY OF STATE.

The Castle,
St. Helena,
11th May, 1914.

SIR,

I HAVE the honour to transmit herewith the Colony's Blue Book for the year 1913, together with my Report thereon.

I have, &c.
H. E. S. CORDEAUX,
Governor and Commander-in-Chief.

The Right Honourable
Lewis Harcourt, M.P.,
Secretary of State for the Colonies.

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ANNUAL REPORT FOR THE YEAR 1913.

I.—FINANCIAL.

(A.) Revenue.

The revenue for the year under review, excluding a grant-in-aid from the Imperial Exchequer of £2,000, amounted to £9,411 3*s*. 5*d*., being £1,369 more than the revenue of the previous year, and £1,450 in excess of the estimated revenue. It is satisfactory to be able to record that the revenue collected during the past year is the highest reached since 1905, being the year preceding the withdrawal of the garrison from the Colony.

The principal increases were under Customs and Post Office. Receipts under the former head amounted to £4,111, or £353 more than in 1912. This was largely due to a gradual revival of trade, as indicated by the fact that the declared value of imports was more by £1,645 than in 1912, thus giving a larger revenue under wharfage dues and duty on spirits. Under Post Office there was increase of £841 as compared with 1912, the total revenue for the year amounting to £2,792 6*s*. 9*d*., towards which the sale of the new issue of postage stamps alone contributed a sum of £2,525.

There were no changes in taxation during the year under review.

(B.) Expenditure.

The year's expenditure amounted to £10,632 13*s*. 4*d*., being an increase of £1,184 over that of the previous year, and £39 in excess of the estimated expenditure.

The principal increase occurred under the head Public Works Extraordinary, a sum of £734 representing the cost of sending out an engineer to inspect and report on the condition of the Jamestown Wharf, together with the cost of certain material for effecting preliminary repairs. Other increases of expenditure occur under the following heads :—

Customs £357. Due to the refund of wharfage on coal supplied to His Majesty's ships.

Medical £148. The cost of provisions and of living generally was higher during the year, and a number of patients remained in hospital for longer periods.

Post Office £147. Due to the cost of printing new sets of postage stamps.

(C.) Assets and Liabilities.

On the 31st December, 1913, the Colony's assets exceeded its liabilities by £1,342 0*s*. 7*d*., an improvement of £569 3*s*. 2*d*. on the previous year's figures.

The assets include a sum of £7,100 representing expenditure incurred by the Colony in connection with the wreck of the s.s. "Papanui." Negotiations for the payment of this long standing debt together with the interest are still proceeding.

Liabilities include a sum of £11,826 1*s*. 9*d*. due to depositors in the Savings Bank, and an overdraft with the Crown Agents of the Colonies amounting to £10,000.

The Colony's investments on the 31st of December, 1913, amounted to £13,235 13*s*. 1*d*., with a market value on the same date of £11,173 9*s*. 11*d*.

(D.) Currency.

The cash circulation at the end of the year under review is estimated at £6,000.

Bills on the Crown Agents to the amount of £3,512 were issued during the year, as compared with £2,100 in 1912.

Specie to the amount of £500 was imported and £720 exported, showing an excess of £220 on the export side.

Remittances by money and postal orders amounted to £6,022, as compared with £5,330 in 1912.

II.—TRADE, AGRICULTURE, AND INDUSTRIES.

(A.) Trade.

Revenue.

The Customs revenue for the year under review amounted to £4,110 16*s*. 3*d*., being an increase of £353 1*s*. 2*d*. as compared with the previous year, and the highest figure reached since the withdrawal of the garrison in 1906.

With the exception of a slight decrease under the head Permits, substantial increases occurred under all heads, as follows :—

	£	s.	d.
(*a*) Wharfage	166	7	1
(*b*) Import duties	140	6	4
(*c*) Tonnage dues	34	11	6
(*d*) Warehouse rent	1	13	3
(*e*) Water	11	14	0

The first four increases are due to the impetus given to trade by the gradual extension of the local flax industry. The additional

employment thereby given and the consequent increase in the cash circulation enabled the labouring classes to spend more freely in the purchase of provisions and other necessaries, and also to indulge in such luxuries as tobacco and liquor.

The increase under water is due to the large number of ships-of-war, both British and foreign, which visited the Island.

Expenditure.

The expenditure in 1913 amounted to £903 13*s.* 11*d.*, being £356 16*s.* 11*d.* in excess of 1912. The refund of wharfage on coal supplied to His Majesty's Navy during the year was £458, as against £215 in 1912. In addition a refund of duty on beer supplied to the Royal Naval establishment, amounting to £21, was made.

Imports.

The total value of imports in 1913 amounted to £43,394, which, if the value of specie is excluded, shows an increase of £1,145 on the previous year.

An increase of £268 under Dutiable Articles, which more than balances the previous year's decrease of £219, may be attributed to the larger number of visits by ships-of-war, and also to the greater purchasing power of the labouring classes. To the latter fact must also be attributed a net increase of £808 under Provisions, particularly rice, flour, and oilmen's stores. Under Miscellaneous a net increase of £422 is principally under coal, hardware, and machinery—the latter being due to the importation of an engine and plant for a private flax mill erected during the year.

Exports.

The total value of exports during 1913 amounted to £7,568, or, excluding specie, an increase of £2,248 over the figures of the preceding year.

The principal exports, as compared with 1912, were :—

	1912.	1913.	Increase.	Decrease.
	£.	£.	£.	£.
Fibre and Tow	3,393	5,372	1,979	—
Hides and Skins	99	321	222	—
Metal, old	92	130	38	—
Sheep, Oxen, and Calves..	502	478	—	24
Wool	162	357	195	—
Specie	1,550	720	—	830

The most noticable increase is under Fibre and Tow, which to the value of £4,100 was exported by the Government Flax Mill, the remaining £1,272 representing the value of fibre and tow exported by Messrs. Solomon and Company's new mill in the Sandy Bay District.

The following figures of imports and exports, exclusive of specie, since the withdrawal of the garrison in 1906 show the effect of the flax industry on the general trade of the Colony :—

	Imports. £	Exports. £	
1907	34,364	1,787	
1908	35,716	4,585	Government Flax Mill working throughout the year.
1909	29,303	5,192	Government Flax Mill working throughout the year.
1910	33,915	3,934	Government Flax Mill working for 6 months of year.
1911	37,102	2,159	Government Flax Mill working for 2 months of year.
1912	41,749	4,600	Government Flax Mill working throughout the year.
1913	42,894	6,848	Government Flax Mill working throughout the year. Private mill working for 5 months of year.

(B.) AGRICULTURE, STOCK, FORESTS AND GARDENS.

The year under review may be regarded as very satisfactory from an agricultural point of view. Owing to good rainfall, root, grain and hay crops were all above the average. Pasture was plentiful and live stock did well. Potato crops varied. In the drier localities the yield was exceptionally good, both in quantity and quality, but in less favoured situations heavy losses had to be faced owing to blight and rot, the latter due to excessive rain. Many of the smaller cultivators lost practically the whole crop and were unable to save seed. There were the usual importations of seed, about seven tons having been obtained by the Colonial Government from Messrs. Sutton and Sons and sold at cost price to growers. A quantity of assorted vegetable seeds were also imported, most of which was issued free to the poorest growers and market gardeners.

A fair number of young trees were issued from the plantation nurseries during the year under review, though not so many as in the previous year owing to the ravages of grubs and other insect pests amongst the young seedlings. About 400 young trees were planted out upon Crown lands, and about 100 issued to the public. A large number of eucalyptus trees, however, were planted in one of the Government forests which is being gradually eaten up by white ants. It is hoped in time to replant the whole of this area with eucalyptus, which, besides being immune to the ravages of white ants, is a quick-growing tree providing excellent timber.

The sale of fruit from the Maldivia garden amounted to £27 0*s*. 11½*d*., whilst the sale of trees from Government forests realised £59 6*s*. 8*d*. The figures for the previous year were £20 14*s*. 11½*d*., and £34 6*s*. 0*d*. respectively.

The Government pasture lands known as Botley's Lay produced a revenue of £80 5*s*. 0*d*. as against an expenditure of £84 14*s*. 2*d*.

(C.) Industries.

Fibre.—The working of the Government mill during the year under review has been in every way satisfactory. No large profit has been made, but the mill has more than cleared working expenses.

The following figures give the results of the year's working :—

Leaves milled	tons	1,296
Fibre produced	„	128
Tow produced	„	39
Receipts from sale of produce		£4,143
Expenditure		£4,006

These figures constitute a record for the six years during which the mill has been running, both the quantity of leaf dealt with and the receipts from the sale of the finished product being greater than in any previous year. The favourable condition of the London market largely contributed towards this result, the prices for fibre and tow during the year averaging £28½ and £14½ per ton respectively. There was an unlimited supply of mature leaves ready for milling, and, in spite of a temporary breakdown in the middle of the year, the mill ran for 269 working days as compared with 249 in the previous year.

On the other hand expenditure was somewhat high, the total of £4,006 being made up as follows :—

	£	
Local charges.		
Purchase of leaves	1,764	
Cartage and local shipping charges	249	
Salaries and wages	950	
Miscellaneous	135	
	——	3,098
London charges.		
Freight	522	
Oil	304	
Miscellaneous	82	
	——	908
		£4,006

As the price paid to growers for green leaves throughout the year was 5 per cent. on the current price of fibre on the London market, expenditure under this head naturally increases with high market prices. Similarly, the items Salaries and Shipping Charges and Freight show an increase in proportion to the increased output. The cost of oil, too, has risen and is likely to go still higher. Under Miscellaneous are included certain abnormally heavy charges for repairs to engine and buildings and purchase of spare parts, amounting to over £100. But for these non-recurring charges, the profit of £137 on the year's working would have been considerably larger. As it

is, however, the result of the Government mill's work during the past year may be regarded as highly satisfactory. The main object is to keep the mill running continuously without a loss. Owing to the fluctuating value of fibre on the London market this cannot be ensured unless the mill can make sufficient profit in good years to form a reserve fund with which to tide over bad years when prices rule low. The profits made during the last two years have considerably strengthened the financial position of the mill, its surplus of assets over liabilities having increased by nearly £500 during that period, excluding a sum of £133 written off on account of depreciation of buildings, machinery, and plant. There is no doubt that a much larger profit could be made if a cheaper form of power were introduced, such as suction gas. This form of power is being employed with most satisfactory results at a new flax mill which was opened in July last by a private firm, Messrs. Solomon and Company. The amount of green leaf dealt with by this mill up to the end of the year was 589 tons, resulting in the output of 38 tons of fibre and 14½ tons of tow. The establishment of this mill marks a most important advance in the development of the fibre industry, which may now be regarded as the staple industry of the Island. The amount of flax now under cultivation is calculated to be ample to ensure a continuous supply of leaves for the two mills. Further planting is being carried out every year, and before long there should be sufficient flax to justify the erection of a third mill.

Lace-making.—The following figures give the transactions of the Government Lace School during the year under review :—

RECEIPTS.

	£	s.	d.
Work sold	502	10	4
Colonial Government Grant	120	0	0
	£622	10	4

EXPENDITURE.

	£	s.	d.
Salaries	155	17	0
Pay of Workers	341	14	9
Material	37	11	0
Incidentals	38	13	0
	£573	15	9

These figures show a satisfactory profit of £48 14*s.* 7*d.* on the year's working, to which must be added the value of goods remaining unsold on the 31st December, 1913, amounting to £150.

Although the Government Lace School cannot yet claim to be a self-supporting institution, steady progress has been made in extending and popularising the industry—and the benefits, both material and moral, which it confers on the female population of the Island cannot well be over-estimated. The results of the first year's working at the new style of lace and embroideries are most satisfactory, thanks to the untiring energies of the local Manageress, Miss Girdwood, and to

the practical interest and assistance given to the School's work by the St. Helena Lace Committee, which was recently formed by the League of Empire. The success of the first sale of the new work, which was held in London at the end of last year, augurs well for the future.

The Manageress, Miss Girdwood, reports as follows on the general progress made during the year :—

"This year began with excellent prospects and has been one of rapid and most satisfactory progress.

"Our development on the lines specially indicated by the Lady Ampthill has been gratifying in every detail of the School's work.

"The previous year had been chiefly occupied in marking time until these special lines could be considered and their outlet provided for by the bi-annual sales, which are now under the Presidency of Lady Ampthill and the Lace School Committee.

"The first of these sales took place in November last, and proved in every way an entire success. This gave encouragement to proceed, and all workers are keenly interested and are putting out their best energies in the development of the new style of work. This consists of old Italian designs in filet work, old Italian cutwork, and embroidery ornamented with old Florentine edgings and insertions—the articles turned out being sofa and chair backs, tea-cloths, sideboard and table runners, centre-pieces, sachets, &c.

"The standard of work aimed at throughout the School being very high, no one is allowed to remain a worker who shews any tendency to slovenliness in work or person, and the strictest weeding out and sifting is necessarily kept up.

"It is only in this way that the numbers can be kept below 200 and the high standard of excellence retained—thus the 165 names on the roll can be safely trusted to carry on the high class of work required for the School's existence, for only so long as this is kept up will the outlet provided by the bi-annual sales in London be continued.

"One very pleasing feature of the School's progress is the eagerness of the younger generation to follow suit. Little ones of nine and ten years now easily accomplish much that the adult learner formerly found a labour.

"Thousands of handkerchiefs have been hemstitched and sold during the year, and these are made entirely by children from seven to ten years of age. Several little girls of ten and eleven are trusted with dainty fine linen babies' frocks to hemstitch, and these are returned beautifully clean and well done.

"The entire work of the School is graded in difficulty from the tiny handkerchief to the bedspread, and children beginning young will, on leaving school, be fully qualified to do any part of the School's embroidery.

"The sifting applies chiefly to the younger children at handkerchiefs, and is absolutely necessary even from an economical point of view, for only those who have satisfactorily passed this stage of training are promoted to embroidery; consequently little or no work is spoiled and every step is mastered before the next is attempted.

"There are between 30 and 40 little handkerchief workers in regular employ doing good work, batches of half-a-dozen at a time being promoted and their places again taken by beginners.

"To meet another need in the Lace School, netting taken up in the same way would be of infinite value, besides being an excellent training to the boys in developing daintiness and deftness of touch, together with the habits of industry and cleanliness which would benefit them through life; and possibly reduce the number of loafers after the school-going age.

"There being so much less need now for Cluny lace, the best of these workers have been put upon netting instead. This they have eagerly learned and find to be much more interesting work. These keep the filet workers supplied, but the need for large quantities of netting is almost unlimited.

"Another gratifying feature in the School's work is the number of young married women who, instead of giving up on their marriage, continue to remain members of the School, and so occupy their time daily after household matters are disposed of.

"This has a good effect on the community, and some of the young husbands are being induced also to occupy their spare hours taking up netting in the

evenings, all of which not only makes a welcome addition to the earnings of the household, but encourages steadiness and industry in both sexes.

"The School has much to be grateful for in the keen interest of His Excellency and Mrs. Cordeaux, who are unfailing in ready sympathy and help in every detail which may make for the welfare of the industry.

"To Mrs. Ord Marshall also and her Council for unwearying and successful efforts to interest the public and to organise the series of sales which are now an accepted and regular outlet for the St. Helena work.

"The year 1913 has been specially marked by two important steps which indicate the progress of the Lace School—a residential centre from which all branches of the School's work can be attended to, and a grant from the Imperial Government for an Assistant Manageress.

"This being a very important position to fill, and requiring great tact, firmness, and skill in managing the workers, in addition to general culture and professional knowledge—it may be some time before the right person is secured, and any other would be quite disastrous to the School's interests."

(D.) Shipping.

The number of vessels that called at the Island during the year under review was 60, which, though the same number as in 1912, gave an aggregate tonnage of 210,609 as against a tonnage of 157,707, or an increase of 52,902, principally due to a larger number of war vessels visiting the Island. These numbered thirteen, of which nine were British, one German, one French, one Japanese, and one Argentine. The three latter were training ships. The British vessels include the battle cruiser "New Zealand," of 18,800 tons, which is the largest and most modern class of fighting vessel that has touched at St. Helena. Rear-Admiral H. G. King-Hall visited the Colony during the year in H.M.S. "Hyacinth," accompanied by the other two ships of the Cape Squadron.

Six whalers put in for provisions and bunker coal and for the purpose of giving their crews liberty.

The American surveying yacht "Carnegie," owned by the Carnegie Institute, put in here twice for the purpose of making observations on shore.

In addition to the above, six vessels called off the port to post letters and obtain provisions through the medium of licensed traders.

Thirty vessels entered and cleared at the port of Jamestown during the year. The cargo shipped and discharged by these vessels amounted to 7,383 tons, as compared with 7,008 in 1912.

III.—LEGISLATION.

There were five Ordinances enacted during the year under review, two of which were in connection with public expenditure.

Two Proclamations were issued, one regulating the season for killing game, and the other bringing into force the "General Rules regulating the Practice and Procedure in Admiralty cases in the Supreme Court of St. Helena."

IV.—EDUCATION.

The number of children attending the schools during the year was :—

	Boys.	Girls.	Totals.
Government Schools. ..	141	186	327
Church Schools	202	156	358

Satisfactory progress has been maintained in the development of the present educational system. That system is excellent as far as it goes, and in so far as it is intended to provide a good sound elementary education it leaves little to be desired. But some form of continuation school, supplemented by technical instruction, is sadly needed. Owing to lack of funds, however, it has not yet been possible to make a start in this direction.

Mr. Tucker's classes for pupil teachers were well attended both by the Government teachers (whose attendance is compulsory) and also by the Hussey Charity School teachers. Good progress was made both in the general subject of instruction as well as in theoretical and practical teaching.

Miss Girdwood, who continues to supervise the needlework classes of the various schools, reports a very marked improvement in the work of the year. All the teachers have made successful efforts to conform to the syllabus of graded needlework, which Miss Girdwood has drawn up to suit the capacity of the various classes, and this it is hoped will permit of a uniform test in marking being adopted next year. As Miss Girdwood writes: "If worked steadily and unanimously along the right lines there is every possibility of the School's needlework developing, as it should, into a little industry of its own."

The total expenditure under Education for the year under review was £671 2*s*. 5*d*., as compared with £632 1*s*. 11*d*. in 1912.

There were 15 prosecutions under the Education Ordinance during the year, as compared with 18 the previous year.

V.—GOVERNMENT INSTITUTIONS.

(A.) Hospitals.

There were 139 admissions during the year, of which 68 were to the male and 71 to the female ward. There were eight deaths, being a mortality of 5·7 per cent., the percentage the previous year having been 5·3 per cent. The nature of the cases treated bore a close resemblance to former years and does not call for remark. There were no structural alterations effected during the year, but the need for a separate operating room was much felt on several occasions.

Miss Barnes completed her three years' engagement in September, and was replaced by Miss Sherlock. Both nurses were selected by the Colonial Nursing Association.

(B.) Savings Bank.

On the 31st December there were 140 depositors on the books of the Savings Bank, as against 135 on the same date in the previous year.

The total sum deposited during the year amounted to £4,239, or an increase of £2,359 as compared with 1913. Of this, however, £1,500 represents the value of an executory estate which had been previously deposited, and re-deposited individually by the several receivers—consequently the actual increase in deposits is £859.

Withdrawals, including the sum of £1,500 above referred to, amounted to £4,975, thus exceeding deposits by £736, but much of this was for local investments, notably for cleaning and planting land with flax.

The Bank's transactions for the year showed an excess of £61 4*s.* 6*d.* in revenue over expenditure.

The amount standing to the credit of depositors on the 31st December, 1913, was £11,826 1*s.* 9*d.* Against this amount stock to the value (purchase price) of £13,235 13*s.* 1*d.* is invested. The market value of this stock was only £11,173 9*s.* 11*d.* on the date named.

VI.—JUDICIAL STATISTICS.

(A.) Criminal.

Supreme Court.—Three prisoners were arraigned and convicted in this Court during the year, one being a Police Constable who for an assault on the Police Sergeant was sentenced to imprisonment with hard labour for one year. The other two were convicted of burglary from the premises of the Eastern Telegraph Company, and received sentence of two years' and of eighteen months' imprisonment with hard labour.

Police Court.—In this Court 123 cases were dealt with, as against 130 in the previous year. This number includes four prosecutions under the Road Tax Ordinance and 15 under the Education Ordinance.

In addition to the above, 128 trivial cases were dealt with by the Police without having recourse to the Police Court.

(B.) Prisons.

The number of prisoners committed to the gaol during the year was 21—ten less than in the previous year. The daily average number in gaol was 3·7, being an increase of 1·03 over the preceding year, there being two additional long term prisoners in gaol. The cost of maintaining the gaol was £116 4*s.* 0*d.*

The number of prisoners remaining in gaol on the 31st December, 1913, was two.

There were seven cases of flogging during the year, one being a conviction under the Juvenile Smoking Ordinance, five for malicious mischief, and one for theft.

VII.—VITAL STATISTICS.

(A.) Population.

The estimated civil population on the 31st December, 1913, amounted to 3,514, to which must be added the Royal Marine establishment, numbering 56, and the crew of the cable ship "Britannia," 80, bringing the total up to 3,650. The civil population shows a decrease of five. There were 95 emigrants as against 40 immigrants, whilst on the other hand the number of births, 101, exceeded the number of deaths, 51, by 50. There were also four births and three arrivals in the Royal Marine establishment.

The birth rate amongst the civil population was 28·7, as against 28·4 per 1,000 in 1912. The number of illegitimate births registered was 22, or one less than in 1912.

The death rate increased from 12·5 per 1,000 in 1912 to 14·5 in 1913. Of the 51 deaths, three were due to accidents, seven were under the age of 10 years, and eighteen over 70 years, one of whom was a centenarian.

Marriages solemnized during the year numbered 22, being four less than in 1912.

(B.) Public Health and Sanitation.

The Colonial Surgeon reports as follows:—

"There is nothing of special note to record as regards the health of the community during 1913. There were 51 deaths, three of which were accidental and eighteen over the age of 70 years; in the case of one old woman the age was 101. There was an increase in the mortality rate, this having reached 14·5 per 1,000, as compared with 12·5 per 1,000 in 1912.

"There were six deaths from tuberculosis, being a mortality rate of 1·7 per 1,000 living.

"The infant mortality rate was 58·3 per thousand births. In the first half of the year nine cases of scarlet fever occurred, the number of cases in all which occurred between 1912 and 1913 being 35. The last case was notified in June, 1913, and the Military Hospital, which had been used as an Isolation Quarter, was handed back to the Military authorities in November.

"There were 35 successful vaccinations in the country and 33 in the town.

"The water supply in many of the country districts is, and always has been, very unsatisfactory. The ailments of children are very commonly aggravated by the almost universal prevalence of intestinal worms, these parasites being due to defective water in the majority of instances.

"The comparatively thickly populated district of Half Tree Hollow has long suffered from the effects of the drinking water being stored in wooden barrels sunk in the earth, which permit of the absorp-

tion by the water of much deleterious matter. The substitution of galvanized iron tanks for the decayed receptacles would undoubtedly improve the physical fitness of the people in this neighbourhood. Many instances of lamentable overcrowding continue to exist in Jamestown. A beginning at least was made in the right direction by the demolition of an offending tenement house known as 'Byrnes Buildings,' and it is to be hoped that similar operations may be undertaken in the future.

"So far as the finances of the Colony would permit, the erection of small houses for the occupation of the well-doing poor might be considered as a legitimate function of Government, under the conditions that rule in St. Helena."

(D.) Climate.

(*a*) Meteorological Station, Hutt's Gate.

Barometer.—The mean pressure for the year was 28·003 inches, as against 28·098 in 1912.

Temperature.—The mean temperature was 62·4°, 61·6° being the mean in the previous year. The absolute maximum was recorded on the 9th February, the reading being 81·6°, as against 78·5° on the 1st, 9th, and 12th February in the preceding year. The lowest-maximum, 68·0°, was recorded on the 3rd and 26th September. The absolute minimum, 51·0°, was recorded on the 19th August, the corresponding reading in 1912 being 50·1° on the 9th September.

Rainfall.—The total rainfall during the year was 43·63 inches, or 0·71 inches less than the fall in the previous year. The maximum fall was registered on the 28th May at 1·12 inches, as compared with 1·28 inches on the 10th May, 1912. The number of rainy days totalled 273, as compared with 275 in the previous year. May's total was the largest monthly fall, and amounted to 6·43 inches on 29 days. A "clear sky" was recorded on the 31st of the same month—a very unusual observation.

Wind.—The mean force for the year was 1·9 which, according to the "Beaufort Scale," is equivalent to a velocity of between 7 and 14 miles per hour. The force was lower than in 1912. Thirteen calm days were recorded, as against ten in the preceding year.

The following table gives the direction for the year :—

S.E.	..	192 days.
S.S.E.	..	132 „
E.S.E.	..	25 „
S.	..	2 „
E.	..	1 „
Calm	..	13 „
		365

(*b*) JAMESTOWN.

Temperature.

	1912	1913
Mean.	72·4°	70·4°
Absolute maximum.	80·0° on 27th Feb.	80·0° on 15th Feb. and 16th April.
Absolute minimum.	60·0° on 15th Aug. and 1st Sept.	65·0° on 1st Oct.

Rainfall.

Total.	9·21 ins.	13·75 ins.
Number of rainy days.	97.	126.
Maximum daily fall.	0·55 on 10th May.	1·35 on 27th Feb.

(*c*) PRIVATE STATIONS.

The following statistics have been compiled from records kept by residents in different parts of the Island :—

	Total Rainfall. Inches.	Number of rainy days.	Maximum fall. Inches.	Date.
Plantation	40·50	203	1·20	20th February.
Farm Lodge	39·35	210	1·79	22nd ,,
Oak Bank	46·79	227	1·29	6th ,,
Willowdene	35·52	220	1·58	27th ,,
The Briars	26·66	228	1·60	28th ,,

VIII.—POSTAL, TELEGRAPH, AND TELEPHONE SERVICES.

(A.) POST OFFICE.

Revenue.—The revenue derived from the Post Office for the year under review amounted to £2,792 6*s.* 0*d.*, being an increase of £839 14*s.* 1*d.* as compared with the previous year, and representing a net profit on the year's transactions of £2,003 15*s.* 11*d.* This large increase is almost entirely accounted for by sales of stamps and postcards to non-residents. Stamp orders received from abroad amounted to £2,180 9*s.* 3*d.* Visits by foreign men-of-war and training ships largely increased sales.

Expenditure.—The expenditure of the department amounted to £788 10*s.* 1*d.*, or £147 2*s.* 0*d.* more than in the previous year, due to the additional cost of printing the large number of stamps in demand.

A large increase in the number of registered articles is due to stamp dealers preferring stamps affixed to envelopes and sent by registered post. It is satisfactory to note that, notwithstanding this large increase in the number of registered articles, no registered or insured article was lost during the year.

Money and Postal Orders.—Transactions under this head were as follows :—

	1913			1912		
	£	*s.*	*d.*	£	*s.*	*d.*
Money orders received.. ..	813	10	10	1,002	2	6
Postal orders received.. ..	1,022	1	8	4,352	10	0
Money orders issued	3,213	18	1	2,558	8	7
Postal orders issued	2,809	1	0	2,772	0	1½

Commission received on the above transactions amounted to £61 16*s.* 3½*d.*, as compared with £53 3*s.* 1*d.* in 1912.

(B.) Telegraphs.

There were no changes in tariff during the year under review.

(C.) Telephones.

The telephone system continues to work satisfactorily. It is maintained entirely by private subscriptions.

IX.—GENERAL OBSERVATIONS.

(A.) Roads.

A sum of £400 was expended during the year on repairs to the principal rural roads. With this limited expenditure it has been found increasingly difficult to keep pace with the wear and tear of increased traffic caused by the growing flax industry, with the result that, generally speaking, the condition of the roads gradually deteriorates from year to year. The expenditure of a capital sum on general repairs is likely to be necessary in the near future, in order to bring the roads up to a general level of efficiency.

The town streets are kept in order at an annual expenditure of £60.

The amount collected under the Road Tax Ordinance during the year was £87 3*s.* 0*d.*, or slightly more than in the previous year. The tax was paid by 581 males, being six more than in 1912. There were only four prosecutions for non-payment, as compared with 39 in the previous year.

(B.) Land Grants and General Value of Land.

There were four grants of land made during the year.

The value of land has remained the same.

(C.) Rate of Wages and Cost of Living.

Although the rate of wages remained at the same low level for the greater part of the year under review, there was every indication of an impending rise, especially in the country districts. The establishment of a second flax mill in the southern district of the Island and the extension of the fibre industry generally had the effect of creating a greater demand for labour in the country, with the result that at the close of the year wages rose from 1*s.* 6*d.* to 1*s.* 9*d.* and 2*s.* 0*d.* a day, and are likely to go still higher. Wages in the town districts, where the unemployment problem is acutest, were not

affected, but the forthcoming works on the Jamestown wharf will create a demand for labour sufficient to raise the wages of the town labourer at least up to a level with those of his country brethren.

On the other hand the cost of the actual necessaries of life was higher than in the previous year. Fresh meat was dearer, beef selling at 10*d.* a pound and mutton at 1*s.* 0*d.* a pound. Fish, the staple diet of the St. Helenian, was particularly scarce, the small quantity brought in by the fishermen being sold at fancy prices. The supply of both albacore and mackerel was far short of the demand—the former in previous years could be purchased for 1*d.* per pound, whereas in the year under review it was difficult to obtain for 3*d.* Mackerel, which used to sell at from 2*d.* to 4*d.* a dozen, went up to the amazing price of 1*s.* 0*d.* to 1*s.* 3*d.* These inflated prices press particularly hard on the poorer classes. The situation is entirely due to the indolence of the fishermen, who by restricting the supply keep prices up and so earn an easy living at a minimum expenditure of their labour. A small fishing business run by a local syndicate would soon reduce the price of fish to its proper level.

(D.) Departments and Institutions.

Public Works Department.

The expenditure for the year amounted to £2,716 2*s.* 0*d.*, of which £1,134 3*s.* 7*d.* was under Works Extraordinary. Under the latter head a sum of £250 was devoted to relief works, principally the breaking of stone by female labour. A sum of £638 was expended on carrying out certain temporary repairs to the wharf at Jamestown and in obtaining the services of an engineer to report on its condition, with a view to the undertaking of works of a more permanent nature.

The revenue and expenditure of the Poor Relief Board and Public Market for the last five years, including the year under review, are given below:—

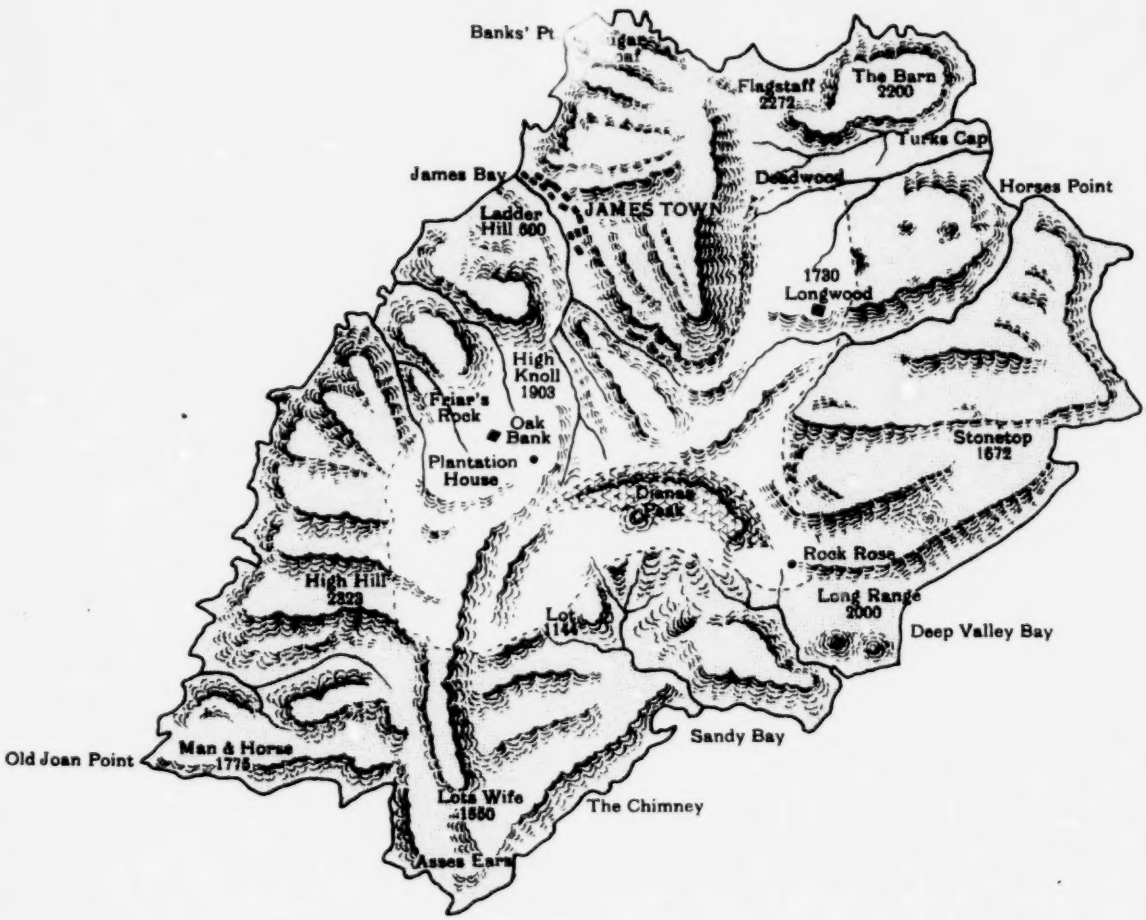
Poor Relief Board.

Year.	Revenue. £	Expenditure. £
1909	848	847
1910	822	783
1911	851	846
1912	837	796
1913	753	728

Public Market.

Year.	Revenue. £	Expenditure. £
1909	116	80
1910	95	88
1911	92	90
1912	78	86
1913	78	86

SKETCH MAP OF ST HELENA



Coast Zone

Middle Zone

Central Zone

A full explanation of the three Zones of Vegetation indicated on this Map is given on p.p. 3 & 4 of Colonial Report (Miscellaneous) No. 38 (Cd. 3248.). Briefly it may be said that —

The Coast Zone, which extends about a mile to a mile and a half around the island, is dry, barren, soilless, and almost entirely devoid of vegetation. Deep wide valleys, & rocky, almost inaccessible ridges, run from the central ridge towards the sea, breaking up the coast zone into numerous, almost detached prominences & ledges.

The Middle Zone, which extends about three quarters of a mile inland from the boundary of the coast zone, has a less rocky surface, with shallower valleys and more grassy slopes: the temperature is lower, and numerous Australian, Cape, and American shrubs and trees have become established, forming thickets of considerable size. Among the chief features of this middle zone are the furze-clad slopes, with occasionally the indigenous gum woods, & in moist sheltered hollows, the larger ferns.

The Central Zone, which occupies a certain extent of land on each side of the central ridge, is altogether about 3 miles long and 2 miles wide; in some places the rocks are precipitous, in others, the land possesses an undulating character, with grassy slopes, meadows, hayfields, a few farms & gardens, and well-wooded glens of oak and acacias.

C.O Nº 24.

Ordnance Survey Office, Southampton, 1914.

(E) Miscellaneous.

It is satisfactory to be able to record that the gradual improvement in the economic condition of the Island which was noticed in the Annual Reports for the two preceding years has been steadily maintained during the year under review. This improvement is mainly to be attributed to the development of the fibre industry, which this year has received a valuable impetus from the establishment of a private flax mill in the southern district of the Island. This mill, together with the Government mill in the eastern district, gives direct employment to over a hundred hands, and puts into circulation some £600 a month in wages and purchase of green leaves. The benefits accruing from the fibre industry are seen in the increased revenue of the Colony for the past year, which is the largest collected since the period of depression which followed on the withdrawal of the garrison in 1906. Imports and exports both show substantial increases, pointing to a steady revival of trade. There has been less depression in the labour market, and wages show a distinct upward tendency owing to the increasing demand for labour, especially in the country districts. This improvement has reacted to a certain extent on the town districts, where there has been less distress during the past year. But the unemployment problem in Jamestown still awaits permanent solution, though the forthcoming works in connection with the repairs of the wharf will provide ample employment for the next two years at least.

H. E. S. Cordeaux,

Governor and Commander-in-Chief.

The Castle,

St. Helena,

11th May, 1914.

COLONIAL REPORTS, &c.

The following recent reports, &c., relating to His Majesty's Colonial Possessions have been issued, and may be obtained from the sources indicated on the title page:—

ANNUAL.

No.	Colony, &c.	Year.
767	Gambia	1912
768	Fiji	"
769	Basutoland	1912–1913
770	Gold Coast	1912
771	Ashanti	"
772	Nyasaland	1912–1913
773	Bechuanaland Protectorate	"
774	British Solomon Islands	"
775	Colonial Survey Committee	"
776	Tongan Islands Protectorate	1911–1913
777	Swaziland	1912–1913
778	Imperial Institute	1912
779	Barbados	1912–1913
780	British Guiana	"
781	Entomological Research Committee	"
782	Southern Nigeria	1912
783	Jamaica	1912-1913
784	British Honduras	1912
785	Northern Nigeria	"
786	Malta	1912-1913
787	Uganda	"
788	Mauritius	1912
789	Straits Settlements	"
790	Trinidad and Tobago	1912-1913
791	East Africa Protectorate	"
792	Grenada	1912
793	Leeward Islands	1912–1913
794	St. Lucia	"
795	St. Vincent	"
796	Bermuda	1912
797	Ceylon	"
	Gibraltar	1913

MISCELLANEOUS.

No.	Colony, &c.	Subject.
78	Weihaiwei	Census, 1911.
79	Northern Nigeria	Mineral Survey, 1907–8 and 1908–9
80	Nyasaland	Mineral Survey, 1908–9.
81	Southern Nigeria	Mineral Survey, 1908–9.
82	Imperial Institute	Rubber and Gutta-percha.
83	Southern Nigeria	Mineral Survey, 1910.
84	West Indies	Preservation of Ancient Monuments, &c.
85	Southern Nigeria	Mineral Survey, 1911.
86	Southern Nigeria	Mineral Survey, 1912.
87	Ceylon	Mineral Survey.

COLONIAL REPORTS—ANNUAL.

No. 847.

ST. HELENA.

REPORT FOR 1914.

(For Report for 1913 see No. 799.)

Presented to both Houses of Parliament by Command of His Majesty.
July, 1915.

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No. 847.

ST. HELENA.

(For Report of 1913 see No. 799.)

THE GOVERNOR TO THE SECRETARY OF STATE.

The Castle,
St. Helena,
22nd May, 1915.

SIR,

I HAVE the honour to transmit herewith the Colony's Blue Book for the year 1914, together with my Report thereon.

I have, &c.,
H. E. S. CORDEAUX,
Governor and Commander-in-Chief.

The Right Honourable
Lewis Harcourt, M.P.,
Secretary of State for the Colonies.

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ANNUAL REPORT FOR THE YEAR 1914.

I.—FINANCIAL.

(A.) Revenue.

The Colony's revenue for the year, exclusive of grants-in-aid amounting to £8,300, was £8,059 17*s.* 3*d.*, being £471 less than the estimated revenue and £1,352 less than the revenue of the previous year. This decrease is mainly due to a large falling off of receipts under the head "Post Office," amounting to £1,560, owing to smaller sales of stamps to non-resident dealers and collectors, most of whom are of German and Austrian nationality. On the other hand receipts under "Customs" showed an increase of £162, owing to larger sales of water to shipping and also to tonnage dues on coal transhipped to vessels in port.

Of the total grant-in-aid received by the Colony, £1,800 was for general purposes and £6,500 for defraying the first year's expenditure on the reconstruction of the Jamestown Wharf.

(B.) Expenditure.

The expenditure during the year amounted to £15,884 0*s.* 4*d.*, being an increase of £5,251 9*s.* 0*d.* on the expenditure of the previous year. This is principally accounted for by the special expenditure of £6,118 during the year on the reconstruction of the Jamestown Wharf. The only other important increase of expenditure was in connexion with the upkeep of rural roads. On the other hand decreases occurred under "Customs," £367, due to less refunds of wharfage on coal supplied to His Majesty's ships; "Medical," £162, owing to the office of Assistant Colonial Surgeon not being filled; and "Post Office," £388, representing a saving on the cost of printing new postage stamps.

(C.) Assets and Liabilities.

The Colony's assets on the 31st December, 1914, exceeded its liabilities by £1,327 7*s.*4*d.*, as compared with an excess of £1,342 13*s.*7*d.* in the previous year.

The Colony's investments on the 31st December, 1914, amounted to £11,762 (cost price), of which £9,032 represents the amount due to depositors in the Government Savings Bank.

(D.) Currency.

Specie to the amount of £2,000 was imported and £1,188 exported, giving a balance of £812 imported.

The amount of cash and Bank of England notes in circulation at the end of the year was approximately £7,000.

Bills on the Crown Agents to the amount of £10,409 were issued during the year, as compared with £3,512 in 1913.

Remittances by money and postal orders amounted to £6,988, as compared with £6,022 in 1913.

II.—TRADE, AGRICULTURE, AND INDUSTRIES.

(A.) Trade.

Revenue.

The Customs revenue for the year under review amounted to £4,273 12*s*. 7*d*., being an increase of £162 16*s*. 4*d*. over the revenue of 1913, and exceeding the estimated revenue by £173 12*s*. 7*d*. This increase, however, is only shown under two heads, "Tonnage dues" and "Water"—all other heads showing slight decreases as follows:—

"Wharfage."—Decrease £1 4*s*. 9*d*. But for the heavy wharfage dues, amounting to £472, which were paid by the German collier, "Eriphia," on 3,150 tons of coal and stores transhipped in Jamestown harbour to the German squadron, there would have been a much larger decrease under this head. This can be accounted for by the fact that only one shipment of coal wa imported by the local contractor, owing to the arrival of Admiralty colliers during the latter four months of the year.

"Duty."—Decrease £93 19*s*. 5*d*. due to less consumption of dutiable goods, the local price of which rose in some cases as much as 25 per cent. in consequence of the outbreak of war.

The increase of £80 17*s*. 6*d*. under "Tonnage dues" is due to the charges collected from the German collier above mentioned—otherwise this head would have shown a decided decrease.

Under "Water" the increase of £183 15*s*. 0*d*. is due entirely to the unusual quantity of water taken by British warships and Admiralty colliers—the total amount of water supplied to ships being 3,715 tuns, as against 1,877 tuns in 1913.

Expenditure.

The expenditure for the year amounted to £538 3*s*. 9*d*., being £365 10*s*. 2*d*. less than in 1913. This decrease is principally due to the amount of refunds on coal supplied to His Majesty's ships, being only £119 8*s*. 0*d*., as against £458 in the previous year.

Imports.

The total value of imports in 1914 amounted to £40,467, being £2,927 less than in 1913. This is principally due to a large decrease, amounting to £5,910, in the value of coals and patent fuel imported.

"Dutiable articles," comprising wines, spirits, beer, and tobacco, show a decrease of £301. Other decreases occurred under "Drapery and dry goods," rice, butter, beef and pork, and stationery—whilst there were substantial increases in imports of flour, grain, sugar, oilman's stores; also in hardware, metals, and cement, the latter being due to increased importations of material in connexion with the repair of the Jamestown Wharf.

Exports.

The total value of exports during 1914 amounted to £9,700 10*s*. 0*d*., as compared with £7,568 in 1913, giving an increase of £2,132. The principal exports for the two years were as follows:—

	1913.	1914.	Increase.	Decrease.
	£.	£.	£.	£.
Fibre and Tow	5,372	7,439	2,067	—
Hides and Skins	321	116	—	205
Metal, old	130	203	73	—
Sheep, Oxen, and Calves..	478	394	—	84
Wool	357	135	—	222
Potatoes	176	220	44	—
Specie	720	1,188	468	—

Again it has to be recorded that the very considerable increase in exports is due to the satisfactory progress made by the flax industry. The two mills, one the Government mill and the other owned by Messrs. Solomon & Co., exported respectively 125 tons and 222 tons of fibre and tow.

(B.) Agriculture, Stock, Forests, and Gardens.

The year under report was the most favourable one experienced for many years past from an agricultural point of view, owing to the steady fall of rain throughout the entire year. Crops in general were

very satisfactory. Potatoes, hay, forage, and green vegetables were exceptionally good in quantity and yielded bountiful crops throughout the Island. Pasture lands benefited especially from the plenteous rainfall, and cattle and livestock generally have done exceedingly well.

A large number of trees were reared from seed in the Plantation Nursery. About 250 were distributed free of cost to the public, whilst about 100, principally eucalyptus, were planted out on Government lands.

The sale of fruit from the Maldivia Garden amounted to £35 10*s*. 0*d*., whilst the sale of timber from the Government forests realised £59 15*s*. 3*d*., as compared with £20 14*s*. 11*d*. and £34 6*s*. 0*d*. respectively in the previous year.

The revenue derived from the Government pasture lands known as Botley's Lay, was £104 15*s*. 8½*d*., and the expenditure £85 18*s*. 10*d*. This, too, is an improvement on the figures of the previous year.

(C.) Industries.

Fibre.—The following figures give the results of the working of the Government mill during the year under review :—

	1913.	1914.
Number of working days	269	262
Leaves milled (tons)	1,296	1,257
Fibre produced „	128	127
Tow „ „	39	37
Receipts from sale of produce ..	£4,143	£2,812
Expenditure	£4,006	£3,402
Average market price of fibre per ton	£28 10*s*.	£24 11*s*.
Average market price of tow „	£14 10*s*.	£13 0*s*.

It is satisfactory to be able to record that the mill has again been run continuously throughout the year, with the exception of a few days' interruption when a severe epidemic of influenza produced a temporary shortage of labour. Hence the quantity of green leaves dealt with was slightly less than in the previous year, though the amount of fibre and tow produced was practically the same.

The falling off in receipts from sale of produce is partly due to lower prices in the London market, but chiefly to the fact that in consequence of the outbreak of war in August, no shipments of fibre and tow took place during the last four months of the year. Consequently only 98 tons of fibre and 30 tons of tow were sold, the remainder of the year's produce being held back until prices should improve. Fortunately the mill had been able to accumulate sufficient funds to enable it to continue working, and no loss or inconvenience was occasioned to cultivators by the temporary closing of the fibre market.

The expenditure, on the other hand, was somewhat less, as compared with the previous year, being made up as follows :—

	1913.		1914.	
Local charges.	£		£	
Purchase of leaves ..	1,764		1,430	
Cartage and local stripping	249		200	
Salaries and wages ..	950		931	
Miscellaneous	135		169	
	——	£3,098	——	£2,730
London charges.				
Freight	522		362	
Oil	304		229	
Miscellaneous	82		81	
	——	908	——	672
		£4,006		£3,402

The decrease is due to a lower purchase price for green leaves, such price varying with the price of fibre on the London market, and also to the saving in freight on nine shipments as compared with 13 shipments in the previous year. It has also to be noted that under expenditure is included a sum of £100 which the mill contributed towards the upkeep of the Colony's roads. The maintenance and mprovement of communications between the flax-producing districts and the mill is essential to a successful development of the industry. Much wear and tear to the roads is caused by the transport of leaves to the mill, and it is only equitable that the additional cost of upkeep thereby entailed should be borne by the industry. It is questionable, however, whether this additional cost should not be contributed by the growers rather than by the mill, which is run entirely for their benefit.

A small tax of, say, 1*s*. per ton on all green leaves delivered at the mill would not be seriously felt by individual growers, whilst it would represent a proportionate contribution towards the upkeep of the roads used by them for the transport of their produce to the mill.

Besides the Government mill, there is one private mill in the Island, the property of the local firm of Messrs. Solomon and Company. This mill was opened in July, 1913, and has been running continuously ever since. The amount of green leaf dealt with by this mill during the year under review was 1,571 tons, resulting in the production of 177 tons of fibre and 45 tons of tow.

Generally speaking, the flax-growing industry is in a very flourishing condition. Its value as a paying concern is now generally recognised, with the result that it is attracting the attention of the smallest landowners. The amount of land placed under flax cultivation is

steadily growing year by year, and may now be estimated at about 700 acres. There is plenty of room for still further expansion. Even now the quantity of mature plants fit for milling is more than can be well dealt with by the one Government mill. As has been pointed out in previous reports, now that the experimental stage has been successfully passed at Government expense, the development of the industry should properly be left to private enterprise and capital. If two or more of the largest growers were to combine to erect a mill to deal with their own leaves, there would still be a sufficient number of small growers to keep the Government mill supplied. The flax industry would then be in an ideal position. There would be two private mills dealing with leaves grown by the owners, and a Government mill, situated in a more central position than the present mill, ready to purchase the produce of the smaller cultivators who could not afford to mill their own leaves, or who could not dispose of them profitably to the private mills. It is hoped that before long it will be possible to realise this condition.

Lace-making.—The following figures give the transactions of the Government Lace School during the year under review :—

Receipts.

	£	*s.*	*d.*
Work sold—			
League of Empire (London) sales ..	176	5	4
South African sales	129	13	5
Local sales..	191	9	9
	£497	8	6

Expenditure.

	£	*s.*	*d.*	£	*s.*	*d.*
Pay of workers				410	10	2
Purchase of material				47	3	4
Rent, rates and taxes				33	18	9
Incidentals—						
Carriage hire	6	1	6			
Postage and insurance ..	5	17	9			
Miscellaneous	11	7	5			
				23	6	8
				£514	18	11

These figures show a net loss of £17 10*s.* 5*d.* on the year's working.

The cost of the European staff, consisting of the manageress and an assistant manageress who was recently engaged, is defrayed from an annual grant by the Imperial Government, and for the year under review amounted to £158 8*s.*

The year under review has seen steady progress and development in the new lines of work which were started two years ago and to which reference was made in the Colony's Annual Report for 1912.* But for the war, which has naturally exercised a depressing influence on all sales, and particularly on those in London, the school would have been able to show a substantial profit on the year's working instead of a slight loss. The fact that the school is not yet self-supporting cannot be taken as a criterion of its value, both moral and material, to the Island as a whole and especially to the female portion of the population. From the figures given above it will be seen that during the past year an outlay of £158, representing the Imperial Government's grant for the year, has resulted in the production and sale of some £500 worth of lace and embroidery. The whole of this sum has been expended in the Colony, the greater portion in wages for some 170 workers and the remainder in payments to local traders or in direct contributions to the Colony's revenues. So that apart from the educational value of the industry, as providing a wholesome and remunerative form of employment for a large number of Island girls, it is of material benefit to the Colony as a whole. The fact that nearly 40 per cent. of the school's revenue during the past year was derived from local sales not only shows that its work is appreciated as such, but encourages the hope that the school will receive a full measure of that local support and encouragement which it so well deserves and which is so necessary to its present existence and future progress. I append an interesting report by the manageress, Miss Girdwood, to whose untiring and often unaided efforts for the last six years the school is so largely indebted for its continued progress in the face of many difficulties and discouragements.

"REPORT ON THE ST. HELENA GOVERNMENT LACE SCHOOL, 1914.

"The progress this year has been a most satisfactory development of that of 1913. The new lines of work started two years ago have now become firmly established, to the great benefit of the island women and girls, many of whom are quite dependent on this as a means of living for themselves and their children.

"The increasing demand for filet necessitated our taking a dozen of the best lace workers to become netters as well. By this, not only is their wage-earning power increased with the ability to do either kind of work, but their excellent work has set a standard not only to the purchasing public, but to the beginners who contentedly take this standard as their aim in reproduction; and, as nothing but perfect work ought to have marketable value, we thus try to go the right way to secure demand.

"The lace workers have been kept fully employed, for not only does the demand for white embroidery work and handkerchiefs require a large amount of lace for trimming, but the filet work also has to be mounted and finished with lace. Orders for lace make additional demand on the workers, so that now we are fortunately very far from having an unsaleable stock of laces in hand, as formerly, from which unlimited choice could be made by an occasional purchaser.

"All lace is disposed of as fast as it can be made, and, at present, in addition to the above needs being supplied, we have in hand over 240 yards of lace on order. During the year nearly 2,000 yards have been made and disposed of. The laces are of excellent quality and workmanship, and are now chiefly of Florentine and old Italian designs secured by Mrs. Cordeaux during her visit to Italy in the beginning of the year. The old cluny and torcheon patterns, so much deprecated by London

* Colonial Reports (Annual) No. 756.

experts and others interested in the welfare of this island industry, are now almost confined to those who have neither ability nor inclination to rise to the standard of work required by the only clientele who can keep up a steady demand for the best.

"It is satisfactory, in a way, that the second-rate and casual workers—offshoots from the Lace School—can find independent market for any lace work they care to put out. Numbers of them have relations in South Africa and America who dispose of, and supply them with small orders for, such lace as they can make, and these, with local sales to residents and passengers, allow this class of worker to stand on her own merits—while, at the least desire to rise to better and steadier work, the Lace School is at hand to help them on.

"The handkerchief class of workers, whose ages vary from six to ten years, maintains its interest and forms a valuable and economical training in preparation for embroidery. Fully one hundred dozen handkerchiefs have been turned out during the year by these little ones, and all these handkerchiefs require lace edging.

"Although the war will necessarily have a serious effect upon our work—as it will upon everything the world over—still, up to the present, we have been able to hold our own and to begin the new year under more favourable conditions than might have been expected.

"An important advance in the interests of the industry has been the arrival in October last of an assistant manageress well qualified to take temporary control or to succeed as necessity may arise.

"A very successful sale was held in London by the Honourable Mrs. Cordeaux last July, with the assistance of the St. Helena Lace School Committee, in connection with the League of Empire. Mrs. Ord Marshall was incapacitated by indisposition from taking her usual prominent part in the work she has done so much to establish.

"Lady Bathurst kindly lent her house, and the sale realised over £100 with orders for filet which have helped to keep the workers employed ever since.

"The 170 workers on the roll may be divided approximately thus :—

Netters	10
Filet	11
Handkerchiefs	30
Lace	54
Embroidery	65

"Invaluable help has been received from the lovely specimens of work from Italy and England which Mrs. Cordeaux kindly sent out while there, and to Lady Bathurst also we are indebted for the loan of a valuable old piece of Italian work.

"By the death of Mr. Liddy, who has been honorary treasurer from the beginning, the Lace School has lost a staunch and faithful adherent, who was always ready to devote time and trouble to the interests of the island workers. His duties have been kindly undertaken by Mr. Leslie Tucker, in combination with those of honorary secretary.

"(Sd.) H. G. GIRDWOOD,
"Manageress."

(D.) SHIPPING.

The number of vessels that called at the Island during the year under review was 80, with a tonnage of 396,956, as compared with 60 and tonnage of 210,609 in the previous year. This increase is due to the larger number of calls made by British men-of-war and merchant steamers in consequence of the state of war.

Early in the year the Island received a visit from a German squadron, consisting of the "Kaiser," flying the flag of Rear-Admiral Von Rebeur Pashvitz, the "König Albert" and the "Strassburg." Seventeen sailing vessels, of which only one was British, touched at the port. Of these, five were whalers which put in for bunker coal and provisions.

In addition to the above, 13 vessels called off the port to signal and to trade with licensed boatmen.

Thirty-seven vessels entered and cleared at the port of Jamestown during the year. The cargo shipped and discharged by these vessels amounted to 6,165 tons, as compared with 7,383 in the previous year.

III.—LEGISLATION.

Six Ordinances were enacted during the year under review, the most important being :—

No. 1.—" The Game and Wild Bird Amendment Ordinance," prohibiting the export of the plumage or skins of non-edible birds.

No. 2.—" The Pensions Amendment Ordinance," providing that no person in receipt of a pension who becomes a director of or is employed by any company whose business is directly and principally concerned with the Colony shall retain such pension without having first obtained the permission of the Governor.

No. 3.—" The Poor Relief Ordinance," amending and consolidating the laws relating to the relief of the poor. The principal effect of this Ordinance was to establish the principle that properties belonging to the Crown, to the Colonial or Imperial Government are not rateable, except when actually occupied by a tenant on payment of rent. The question as to the rateability of such properties had for long been the subject of much contention and consequent litigation between the Colonial Government and the parish authorities. The Ordinance also provides for the payment by the Colonial Government of an annual contribution of £15 towards the relief of the poor, this sum being calculated on the average annual amount hitherto paid by the Colonial Government in rates assessed on its properties.

No. 4.—" The Tax Amendment Ordinance," providing that a fixed annual sum of £67 should be paid to the overseer of the poor for the benefit of the poor of the parish, in lieu of the dog tax, which under the principal Ordinance was payable yearly to the parish.

Fifteen proclamations were issued during the year, all of which, with the exception of two, dealt with matters connected with the outbreak of war and the defence of the Island.

IV.—EDUCATION.

There are nine elementary schools in the Island, of which three are Government schools. Of the remainder four are supported by the Hussey Charity Fund, one by the Benevolent Society, and one by the Lord Bishop of the Diocese assisted by an annual grant from the Colonial Government.

The number of children attending these schools during the year was :—

	Boys.	Girls.	Total.
Government schools	138	184	322
Other schools	199	157	356

Owing to epidemics of whooping cough and influenza all schools in the Island had to be closed for five months from July to December. In spite of this interruption the general standard of work has been well maintained. During December the work of the first six months was revised, and it was found that the children had not gone back as much as might have been expected.

The usual pupil-teachers' classes, under the personal supervision of Mr. Tucker, were held without interruption throughout the year. Nine candidates sat for examination at the end of the year, the results being entirely satisfactory.

Miss Girdwood continued to supervise the needlework classes of the several schools, and is able to report satisfactory progress in this important branch of education.

The total expenditure during the year on the Government schools, exclusive of grants-in-aid to other schools, amounted to £709 13*s*. 1*d*., or £2 4*s*. a head per child. Until the Colony's revenue is in a position to allocate a larger sum to education any idea of supplementing the existing elementary schools by secondary or technical instruction will have to be abandoned.

The schools were on the whole well attended, there being only four prosecutions for non-attendance under the Education Ordinance during the year, as compared with 15 the previous year.

V.—GOVERNMENT INSTITUTIONS.

(A.) Hospital.

There were 128 admissions to the hospital during the year, of which 64 were treated in the male ward and 64 in the female ward. The number of admissions shows a decrease of 28 as compared with the previous year.

There were nine deaths, a percentage of 7·3, as compared with 5·7 in the previous year. Three of these cases were, however, over seventy years of age.

During the latter part of the year the building of a new operating room, the need for which has been long felt, was taken in hand and should be completed early in the coming year.

Several changes have occurred in the hospital staff. Miss Oxley replaced Miss Henderson, who had completed her three years' service in the Colony. Miss Wagstaff replaced Miss Sherlock, who retired

from the service in October. In November the Lady Superintendent, Miss Hart, left the Island on leave of absence necessitated by ill-health, and in the same month Doctor Arnold, the Colonial Surgeon, having contracted influenza during a severe epidemic, was obliged to go on sick leave. His place was taken by Major Foulds, R.A.M.C., who acted as Colonial Surgeon until Doctor Draper arrived in December to take up his duties as Assistant to the Colonial Surgeon, when he was appointed to act as Colonial Surgeon.

(B.) Savings Bank.

There was a slight decrease in the number of depositors remaining at the end of the year, the number being 133 as compared with 140 in the preceding year. Four withdrew their deposits, amounting to nearly £2,000, for local investment in real estate.

The total deposits for the year amounted to £2,006 17*s.* 0*d.*, being £737 3*s.* 0*d.* less than in 1913. Withdrawals totalled £5,131 6*s.* 8*d.*, thus exceeding deposits by £3,124 9*s.* 8*d.*

The Bank's revenue from investments in 1914 was £403 0*s.* 11*d.*, and its expenditure £305 8*s.* 11*d.*, thus showing a profit of £97 12*s.* 0*d.* on the year's transactions.

The amount standing to the credit of depositors on the 31st December, 1914, was £9,032 0*s.* 7*d.* Against this amount stock to the amount of £11,915 13*s.* 5*d.* is held by the Colony.

VI.—JUDICIAL STATISTICS.

(A.) Criminal.

Supreme Court.—No cases were committed for trial before the Supreme Court during the year under review.

Police Court.—The Police Magistrate dealt with 64 cases, as compared with 123 in the previous year; of this number four were prosecutions under the Education Ordinance, and two for breaches of the Harbour Ordinance. In addition to the above there were 127 cases of a trivial nature which were disposed of by the Police without taking them into Court.

There were eight cases of flogging during the year, two for theft and six for mischievous conduct.

There were two convictions under the Juvenile Smoking Ordinance.

(B.) Prisons.

Only eleven prisoners were committed to the gaol during the year, being ten less than in the previous year and the lowest number recorded

for many years past. The daily average in gaol decreased from 3·7 in 1913 to 2·4 during the year under review, and at the end of the year the gaol was empty for the first time for six years. The cost of maintaining the gaol was £106 13*s.* 7*d.*

(C.) The Police Force.

No changes have been made in the number and constitution of the force, which performed its duties satisfactorily during the year.

VII.—VITAL STATISTICS.

(A.) Population.

The estimated civil population on the 31st December, 1914, was 3,553, as compared with 3,514 on the same date a year previous.

There were 70 emigrants and 64 immigrants during the year, as compared with 95 and 40 respectively in 1913.

Deaths amounted to 54 and births to 100, as compared with 51 deaths and 101 births in 1913.

The death-rate in civil population during 1914 works out at 14·6 per 1,000—exceeding the rate of the previous year by ·1 and being the highest for many years past. Ten infants died under one year of age and nineteen adults over the age of seventy, one of whom was over ninety. No accidental deaths were recorded.

The birth-rate in 1914 was 27·3 per 1,000, being 1·4 lower than in 1913. The number of illegitimate births registered was 23, or one more than in 1913.

Marriages solemnised during the year amounted to 22, being the same number as in 1913.

(B.) Public Health.

The general health of the Island during the year has been good, although the death-rate reached 14·6 per 1,000, being slightly higher than in the previous year. The gradual rise in the death-rate which has been taking place during the past few years is mainly attributable to deaths from old age. The year under review was marked by two severe epidemics, one of whooping cough and one of influenza, which was in numerous cases complicated by broncho-pneumonia, resulting in seven deaths. In addition, two deaths occurred from pulmonary tuberculosis, and four from dysentery. As has been noted in previous reports the water supply in many of the country districts is still very

unsatisfactory, especially in the Half Tree Hollow district, where dysentery and acute diarrhoea have been particularly prevalent. Steps are being taken to improve the existing system of supplying water to this district.

(C.) Sanitary.

The Board of Health have considered and dealt with various matters of minor importance. The slaughter houses and mineral water factories have been effectually supervised.

The drainage system is satisfactory, and the water supply available for flushing purposes has proved generally sufficient, though occasional shortages have occurred when large quantities have to be supplied to shipping. This defect will, however, disappear when the storage tank which is now being erected on the wharf is taken into use.

(D.) Climate.

Meteorological Station, Hutt's Gate.

Barometer.—The mean pressure for the year was 28·097, as compared with 28.003 inches in 1913.

Temperature.—The mean temperature was 61·7°, as against 62.4° in the previous year. The absolute maximum recorded was 82·0° on the 22nd March. In the previous year 81·6° was the maximum temperature, recorded on the 9th February. The absolute minimum was 51·0 on the 31st July, the same reading having been recorded on the 19th August in the previous year.

Rainfall.—The total rainfall was 49·220 inches, being an increase of 5·590 inches over that of the previous year, and the heaviest experienced since 1906, when the fall was 49·770 inches. The maximum fall occurred on the 21st January and measured 1·120 inches, this being the same as the maximum fall on the 28th August, in 1913 The number of days on which rain fell totalled 288, as against 273 in the previous year. The wettest months were March, April, May and August, when rain fell on 26, 29, 24 and 24 days respectively. In March no less than 6·070 inches were registered.

Wind.—The mean force for the year was 2·1, which represents a velocity of a little over 14 miles per hour and which is the normal figure. Only three calm days were recorded, as compared with thirteen in the previous year.

The following table shows the direction of the wind throughout the year:—

S.E.	.. .. ..	183 days.
S.S.E.	.. .. ..	156 ,,
E.S.E.	.. .. ..	4 ,,
S.	.. ..	19 ,,
Calm	.. .. ..	3 ,,

JAMESTOWN.

Temperature.

	1913.	1914.
Mean	70·4°	70·7°
Absolute maximum	80·0° on 15th Feb. and 16th April.	81·0° on 7th Feb.
Absolute minimum	65·0° on 1st Oct.	65·0° on 12th Aug. and 10th Oct.

Rainfall.

Total	13·75 ins.	9·58 ins.
Rainy days ..	126	113
Maximum fall ..	1·35 ins. on 27th Feb.	1·03 ins. on 7th Apr.

PRIVATE STATIONS.

	Total Rainfall. Inches.	Number of rainy days.	Maximum fall. Inches.	Date.
Plantation	47·98	239	2·05	6th Apr.
Oakbank	55·15	244	—	—

VIII.—POSTAL, TELEGRAPH, AND TELEPHONE SERVICES.

(A.) POST OFFICE.

Revenue.—The postal revenue for the year amounted to £1,233 2*s.* 1*d.*, being £1,559 3*s.* 11*d.* less than the receipts of the previous year. Almost the whole of this large decrease is due to a falling off in the sale of stamps to non-resident stamp collectors in Germany and Austria, and these sales have now ceased in consequence of the war. There is also a decrease in the postal charges recovered from the Postmaster-General, owing to a falling off in the amount of parcel post matter received from the United Kingdom.

Expenditure.—The total expenditure of the department amounted to £399 13*s.* 4*d.*, or £388 16*s.* 9*d.* less than in the previous year, principally due to saving in the cost of printing postage stamps. The net profit on the year's transactions was £833 8*s.* 9*d.*, as compared with £2,003 15*s.* 11*d.* in 1913.

Money and Postal Orders.—Transactions under this head show a total increase of £2,242 on those of the previous year, and were as follows :—

	1914			1913		
	£	*s.*	*d.*	£	*s.*	*d.*
Money orders received.. ..	610	18	8	813	10	10
Postal orders received.. ..	3,040	12	6	1,022	1	8
Money orders issued	4,491	9	0	3,213	18	1
Postal orders issued	2,497	7	6	2,809	1	0

Commission received on the above amounted to £73 13*s.* 4*d.*, as compared with £61 16*s.* 3½*d.* in 1913.

(B.) Telegraphs.

The Eastern Telegraph Company's tariff remained the same for ordinary messages as in the previous year.

From the 1st of May the Company extended to this Colony the system of " week-end telegrams," the charge being at the rate of 7½*d.* a word, subject to a minimum charge of 12*s.* 6*d.* or twenty words for one telegram. The system of " deferred " telegrams was suspended on the outbreak of war, but was resumed on the 1st of October.

On the 31st December the Company's staff at this station numbered twenty-four.

(C.) Telephones.

There were 40 miles of wire under the administrative system open for traffic during the year. The cost of upkeep for the year amounted to £76 7*s.* 6*d.*, whilst the income from rents of instruments, subscriptions and message charges amounted to £88 18*s.* 11*d.* The administrative system is controlled by the Colonial Government, though the cost of upkeep is provided entirely by private subscriptions without any assistance from the Colonial Government.

The number of messages dealt with was 574, being 43 more than in the previous year.

There were 17 telephone instruments in use, including three in public offices. The staff consists of three operators and one linesman.

Though necessarily limited in extent, the administrative system of telephones has proved invaluable and is indeed indispensable to the official and social life of an island of such difficult communications as St. Helena. The system has been admirably worked throughout the year, though the exigencies of defence arrangements on the outbreak of war necessarily caused some dislocation.

IX.—GENERAL OBSERVATIONS.

(A.) Roads.

The total expenditure during the year under review on works connected with the improvement of the rural roads amounted to £1,076 12*s.* 8*d.* Of this amount the Government flax mill contributed £100 in consideration of the wear and tear caused to the roads by the transport of leaves to the mill, and £500 was granted as a special vote as a means of bringing the general condition of the roads up to a better standard. The result of this expenditure has been a decided improvement in the general condition of the principal roads, whilst at the same time the purchase of two additional carts and draught animals should greatly facilitate this improvement being maintained in future years without any increase of the normal annual expenditure. A considerable tract of land in the Plantation grounds has been cleared and ploughed for the cultivation of oats and other kinds of fodder, so that no additional expense should be incurred in feeding the new transport animals.

The amount collected under the Road Tax Ordinance during the year was £86 14*s.* 0*d.*, being slightly less than in the previous year. During the second half of the year exemptions were granted under the provisions of the Ordinance to all men in the St. Helena Volunteers who had been embodied for active service. Fifty-two persons were thus excused payment of the tax, which was paid by 578 males, or three less than in the previous year.

There were no prosecutions for non-payment.

(B.) Land Grants and General Value of Land.

There were three transfers of property and twenty-five grants of land made during the year. These grants, consisting of 26 acres in all, were of small plots of Crown waste land suitable for flax planting by the poorer classes.

The value of land generally remains the same. It naturally varies considerably according to quality. The plots above referred to could not be valued at more than £3 per acre, whereas the better quality pasture or arable land may be valued at from £5 to £10 per acre.

(C.) Rate of Wages and Cost of Living.

As was anticipated in last year's report, there was a slight increase in the rate of wages during the year under review. In the country districts the daily wage rose from 1*s.* 9*d.* to 2*s.* 0*d.* and in some cases to 2*s.* 6*d.* The 1*s.* 9*d.* rate was little in evidence, and was principally applied to casual labour. In Jamestown, owing to the greater demand for labour in connection with the wharf reconstruction works, 2*s.* 0*d.* a day became the minimum wage. The formation of a paid Volunteer

Corps on the outbreak of war in August further relieved the economic depression in the town districts by absorbing such unemployed labour as remained after supplying the demand created by the wharf works.

The cost of the necessaries of life was higher, and, towards the end of the year, showed a rise of at least 40 per cent. as compared with the previous year. This was mainly due to the outbreak of war, which caused a sharp rise in the price of all articles, especially of such staple commodities as flour, sugar and rice. As the Island is largely dependent on regular monthly importations of food supplies, some anxiety was at first felt as to the sufficiency of the stocks held by local merchants, and the general public showed a tendency to buy in larger quantities than usual with a view to hoarding. This had the natural result of raising prices. To prevent any further undue inflation the maximum retail price of the more staple foodstuffs was regulated by Proclamation.

The problem of fish supply is no nearer solution. What used to form the staple food of the St. Helenian has now become an absolute luxury—the price has increased 100 per cent. Opinions vary as to whether this state of affairs is due to the fish or the fishermen, or both. There is no doubt that the former are both scarcer and more difficult to take; at the same time it is no less certain that the fisherman class has deteriorated, both in numbers and in energy and resource.

(D.) Departments and Institutions.

Public Works Department.

The total expenditure for the year was £2,734 15*s.* 9*d.*, of which £1,006 15*s.* 11*d.* was under "Works Extraordinary." Under "Works Recurrent" the ordinary repairs to roads, buildings, and water supply were carried out, together with the usual clearing and re-planting of Government lands and forests. Under "Works Extraordinary," beside the special expenditure on road works, which has already been referred to under "Roads," the only work calling for special note was the erection of a new tank on the wharf, in order to ensure a more certain supply of water to shipping without causing a simultaneous scarcity of water in the town, a defect which has been felt for many years past.

Reconstruction of the Jamestown Wharf.

Work on this important undertaking was commenced in March of the year under review, under the supervision of Mr. Alexander Thomson, as inspector of works, assisted by Mr. Hogg, on special plans prepared by Mr. F. P. Lane during his visit to the Colony in the previous year.

It was calculated that the work would take two years to complete, but as progress is dependent on weather conditions, which are extremely variable, this estimate is only approximate. Conditions so far have been fairly favourable, though frequent interruptions have been inevitable, partly due to heavy seas making under-water work difficult and sometimes impossible, and partly owing to the frequent arrival of warships and mail steamers, on which occasions work has often to

be suspended to admit of the landing and shipping of cargo. In spite of these difficulties, satisfactory progress has been made.

The estimated cost of reconstruction is £11,000, of which £6,117 9*s.* 10*d.* had been expended up to the end of the year under review.

Poor Relief Board.

The revenue and expenditure of the Poor Relief Board for the last five years, including the year under review, are given below :—

Year.	Revenue.	Expenditure.
	£	£
1910	822	783
1911	851	846
1912	837	796
1913	753	728
1914	717	704

Under the new Poor Relief Ordinance, which, as already noted under "Legislation," came into force on the 1st April of the year under review, the Colonial Government paid a fixed contribution, amounting to £77 17*s.* 6*d.*, towards the relief of the poor, instead of the usual poor rates and dog tax. Under the old Ordinance the Colonial Government contribution for the year would have amounted to £60 15*s.* 4*d.*, so that, in spite of much adverse criticism of the new Ordinance, it has actually benefited the parish to the extent of £17 during its first year's working.

Public Market.

The revenue for the year amounted to £113 16*s.* 8*d.* and the expenditure to £86 8*s.* 3*d.*, as compared with £78 and £86 respectively in the previous year. At the close of the year the market accounts showed a credit balance of £27 8*s.* 5*d.*

(E.) Miscellaneous.

The principal event of the year was the outbreak of war with Germany and Austria, which was announced in the Colony early in the morning of the 5th August. The news was received with calmness, and at the same time with a due sense of the gravity of the interests at stake. The Imperial Order in Council of the 26th October, 1896, establishing martial law throughout the Colony, was proclaimed on the same day. Offers of personal service in the defence of the Colony were made by all sections of the community, and before many days had passed a strong volunteer force had been raised, part of which was at once embodied and placed on active service under the orders of the officer commanding the troops. I cannot speak too highly of the loyal and patriotic spirit shown by the whole population in all matters relating to the safety and welfare of the Colony.

As regards the general economic situation, particularly as it has been affected by the war, the increased cost of living has been to some extent counterbalanced by improved economic conditions generally. Local industries have not been seriously affected by the war. The labour market has been less depressed and wages generally have been higher, whilst service in the embodied portion of the Volunteer Corps has provided regular and well-paid employment for many who in ordinary times are dependent on casual work for a living.

The full significance of the war is thoroughly appreciated in this distant outpost of Empire, and its progress is followed with the keenest interest. Though debarred by distance and the limited resources of their small Island from taking a more active part in the struggle, the inhabitants of this Colony have given ample proof that they are imbued with the same spirit of loyalty and devotion to His Majesty and the Empire to which other Colonies have been in a position to give more practical and material expression.

H. E. S. CORDEAUX,
Governor and Commander-in-Chief.

The Castle,
St. Helena,
20th May, 1915.

COLONIAL REPORTS, &c.

The following recent reports, &c., relating to His Majesty's Colonial Possessions have been issued, and may be obtained from the sources indicated on the title page :

ANNUAL.

No.	Colony, &c.	Year.
814	Hong Kong	1913
815	Bechuanaland Protectorate	1913–1914
816	Imperial Institute	1913
817	Falkland Islands	,,
818	Malta	1913–1914
819	Trinidad and Tobago	,,
820	Jamaica	,,
821	Northern Nigeria	1913
822	Grenada	,,
823	Zanzibar	,,
824	Barbados	1913–1914
825	Southern Nigeria	1913
826	Mauritius	,,
827	British Honduras	,,
828	Colonial Survey Committee	1913–1914
829	Tongan Islands Protectorate	,,
830	Swaziland	,,
831	Uganda	,,
832	Nyasaland	,,
833	British Guiana	,,
834	Imperial Bureau of Entomology	1914
835	St. Vincent	1913–1914
836	St. Lucia	,,
837	Somaliland	,,
838	Straits Settlements	1913
839	Cayman Islands	1913–1914
840	East Africa Protectorate	,,
841	Leeward Islands	,,
842	Gilbert and Ellice Islands	,,
843	Zanzibar	1914
844	Turks and Caicos Islands	,,
845	Weihaiwei	,,
846	Seychelles	,,

MISCELLANEOUS.

No.	Colony, &c.	Subject.
79	Northern Nigeria	Mineral Survey, 1907–8 and 1908–9.
80	Nyasaland	Mineral Survey, 1908–9.
81	Southern Nigeria	Mineral Survey, 1908–9.
82	Imperial Institute	Rubber and Gutta-Percha.
83	Southern Nigeria	Mineral Survey, 1910.
84	West Indies	Preservation of Ancient Monuments, &c.
85	Southern Nigeria	Mineral Survey, 1911.
86	Southern Nigeria	Mineral Survey, 1912.
87	Ceylon	Mineral Survey.
88	Imperial Institute	Oilseeds, Oils, &c.
89	Southern Nigeria	Mineral Survey, 1913.
90	St. Vincent	Roads and Land Settlement.

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1915.

COLONIAL REPORTS—ANNUAL.

No. 896.

ST. HELENA.

REPORT FOR 1915.

(For Report for 1914 see No. 847.)

Presented to both Houses of Parliament by Command of His Majesty.
September, 1916.

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No. 896.

ST. HELENA.

(For Report for 1914 see No. 847.)

THE GOVERNOR TO THE SECRETARY OF STATE.

The Castle,
St. Helena,
14th June, 1916.

SIR,

I HAVE the honour to transmit herewith the Colony's Blue Book for the year 1915, together with my Report thereon.

I have, &c.,
H. E. S. CORDEAUX,
Governor and Commander-in-Chief.

The Right Honourable
A. Bonar Law, M.P.,
Secretary of State for the Colonies.

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ANNUAL REPORT FOR THE YEAR 1915.

I.—FINANCIAL.

(A.) Revenue.

The revenue collected during the year under review amounted to £6,466 9*s*. 2*d*., being a decrease of £1,593 8*s*. 1*d*. as compared with the figures of the previous year, and the lowest revenue recorded since the year 1909, which marked the period of the Colony's greatest financial depression. Various causes contributed to this set-back, all of which are indirectly due to the continuance of a state of war and which may therefore be regarded as only temporary.

The two principal sources of revenue which showed marked decreases were "Customs" and "Post Office." Customs receipts realised £3,397, or £876 less than in 1914, one reason being the exemption from Customs dues of all goods consigned for the use of the garrison, whilst the Postal revenue was £694 less than the actual receipts in the previous year.

(B.) Expenditure.

The Colony's expenditure, exclusive of extraordinary military expenditure, but including wharf repairs amounting to £2,907 15*s*. 9*d*., was £12,253 4*s*. 11*d*., or £3,630 15*s*. 5*d*. less than in 1914. Savings were effected under eleven heads of the Estimate amounting to £2,470 11*s*. 2*d*., whilst under five heads there were small excesses to the total amount of £178 4*s*. 7*d*.

(C.) Grants-in-aid.

It will be seen that the Colony's expenditure, including extraordinary expenditure in connection with repairs to the Jamestown Wharf, exceeded its revenue by £5,786 15*s*. 9*d*. To meet this deficit the Colony received a grant-in-aid from the Imperial Exchequer of £3,200, of which £500 was for general purposes and £2,700 for wharf repairs. The net deficit of £2,586 15*s*. 9*d*. had to be met by overdrafts on the Crown Agents.

(D.) Assets and Liabilities.

In consequence of the above deficit, the Colony's liabilities on the 31st December, 1915, exceeded its assets by £1,302 0*s*. 11*d*., being a set-back of £2,629 as compared with the Colony's financial condition on the same date in 1914.

Under assets is included a sum of £4,494 representing the balance of the amount due to the Government in connection with the repatriation of the immigrant passengers of the wrecked S.S. "Papanui," and a sum of £4,050 which represents the expenditure incurred by the Colony in connection with the upkeep of the local volunteers, general defence arrangements, and internment camp. The Colony's investments on the 31st December, 1915, amounted to £11,698 10*s.* 5*d.*, with a market value on the same date of £9,914, showing a depreciation of £1,784 10*s.* 5*d.*

Liabilities include a sum of £8,752 18*s.* 9*d.* due to depositors in the Savings Bank, and an overdraft with the Crown Agents for the Colonies of £14,434 4*s.* 6*d.*

(E.) Currency.

Bills on the Crown Agents to the amount of £15,319 were issued during the year, and remittances by money and postal orders amounted to £7,368, making a total of £22,687, as compared with £17,398 in 1914.

There was no direct exportation of specie, but the amount imported was £1,800.

The amount of cash and Bank of England notes in circulation at the end of the year was approximately £8,000.

II.—TRADE, AGRICULTURE, AND INDUSTRIES.

(A.) Trade.

Revenue.

The Customs revenue for the year under review amounted to £3,396 16*s.* 7*d.*, being a decrease of £876 16*s.* 0*d.* as compared with the previous year. This decrease is more than accounted for under the following three heads:—

"Wharfage."—£753 0*s.* 9*d.* Only 61 tons of coal and coke were imported by the local contractors, as against 1,370 tons in 1914. Moreover, an Admiralty collier landed 2,000 tons of coal in 1915 free of all Customs dues and charges.

"Tonnage Dues."—£255 2*s.* 0*d.* This decrease is due to the same causes as noted above. Vessels bringing coal and coke paid £3 1*s.* 0*d.* in tonnage, as compared with £68 10*s.* 0*d.* in 1914.

"Water."—£223 14*s.* 0*d.* In 1914 the amount of water supplied to His Majesty's ships and colliers was 2,686 tuns, as against 963 tuns during the year under review. Again, the cable ship "Britannia" was away for nine months out of the twelve, taking 314 tuns only as against 717 tuns in 1914.

Increases occurred under other heads, including:—

"Import Duties."—£186 4*s.* 5*d.* Due to improvement in labour conditions, placing more money in circulation and enabling the working classes to indulge in such luxuries as tobacco and liquor.

"Export Duties."—£163 5*s*. 10*d*. This represents the additional revenue collected under the Customs Amendment Ordinance No. 2 of 1915, which places an export duty of 10*s*. and 5*s*. per ton on fibre and tow respectively, and which came into operation on the 1st March, 1915.

Expenditure.

The expenditure for the year amounted to £446 11*s*. 2*d*., as compared with £538 3*s*. 9*d*. in 1914. A less quantity of coal was taken by His Majesty's ships, the refund of wharfage amounting to only £18, as against £119 8*s*. 0*d*. in 1914.

Imports.

The total value of imports in 1915 amounted to £43,459, as against £40,467 in 1914, showing an increase of £2,992. Dutiable articles, such as tobacco, wines, and spirits, show an increase of £672. Similarly, provisions of all kinds were imported in considerably larger quantities, showing a total increase of value amounting to £4,463 over the figures of the previous year. These increases, though partly due to the higher cost price of all commodities, are mainly attributable to the greater purchasing power of the labouring classes, labour having been plentiful, and steady wages being earned. Perhaps the most remarkable increase occurs in the value of tea imported during the year. Tea appears to be the invariable accompaniment to all meals, and it has become a universal habit of late to indulge in eleven o'clock tea, more familiarly known as "elevens."

The principal decreases in imports occur under cement, coal, hardware, metals, machinery, oilman's stores, and specie. In 1914 the Colonial Government imported a very large quantity of cement, hardware, and machinery in connection with the reconstruction works on the Jamestown Wharf, which were not repeated in 1915. Only 61 tons of coal, valued at £121, were imported, as compared with 1,370 tons, with a value of £2,546, in 1914. The amount of specie imported by the Colonial Government was £1,000 as against £2,000 in the previous year.

Exports.

The total value of exports during 1915 amounted to £13,412, or, excluding specie, an increase of £4,900 over the figures of the preceding year.

The principal exports as compared with 1914 were:—

	1914.	1915.	Increase.	Decrease.
	£.	£.	£.	£.
Fibre and Tow	7,439	11,101	3,662	—
Hides and Skins	116	376	260	—
Metal, old	203	90	—	113
Sheep and Calves	394	513	119	—
Wool	135	856	721	—
Specie	1,187	—	—	1,187

It will be seen that there is again a noteworthy increase in the value of fibre and tow exported, due partly to the enhanced value of these commodities on the London market, and partly to larger shipments; 395 tons having been exported during the year, as compared with 347 in 1914. Of the total exports of fibre and tow, 210 tons were the produce of the Government mill and 185 tons the produce of the private mill owned by Messrs. Solomon & Company.

(B.) Agriculture, Stock, Forests, and Gardens.

The year under review cannot be regarded as a favourable one from an agricultural point of view. The early part of the year was fairly satisfactory, but the scanty rainfall in the later months of the year seriously affected crops and pasture lands. Root and grain crops were poor, whilst potato crops in the latter half of the year failed altogether, most of the growers losing their entire crops and being unable to save seed. Cattle suffered considerably, as pasture lands were practically bared, and garden grounds were for the most part empty. Five tons of seed potatoes from Messrs. Sutton & Sons were imported by the Colonial Government and sold to local growers at cost price. The garden grounds at Plantation which were placed under cultivation in 1914 have proved most successful, and have been the means of effecting considerable economy in the feeding of Government transport animals. It is quite evident from this experiment that much more could be done in the way of growing fodder for animals instead of importing food stuffs at considerable expense. It is hoped next year to clear a further tract of ground at Plantation for the cultivation of cereals. In addition to the above a broad belt of undergrowth and trees infected with white ants has been cleared around the Plantation estate. This clearing, which measures about four acres, has been planted with flax, about 25,000 suckers having been put in. This should bring in a considerable revenue in two or three years, besides preventing further encroachments by white ants.

The usual free issues of young trees to landowners have been made, about 630 trees having been distributed from the Plantation nurseries, and about 370 planted out on Government lands.

The sale of fruit from the Maldivia Garden realised £45 3*s.* 5*d.*, as compared with £20 14*s.* 11*d.* in the previous year. About 100 young fruit trees were imported from South Africa both for local growers and for planting in Government gardens.

The Government pasture lands known as Botley's Lay produced a revenue of £101 14*s.* 5½*d.*, against which expenditure to the amount of £85 8*s.* 8*d.* was incurred.

(C.) Industries.

Fibre.—The following figures show the results of the working of the Government mill during the year under review, as compared with 1914 :—

	1914.	1915.
Number of working days	262	265
Leaves milled (tons)	1,257	1,417
Fibre produced „	127	152
Tow „ „	37	37
Receipts from sale of produce ..	£2,812	£5,847
Expenditure	£3,402	£4,589
Average market price of fibre per ton	£24 11*s.*	£32 5*s.*
Average market price of tow „	£13 0*s.*	£18 11*s.*

The Government mill has again established a record, both as regards the quantity of leaves dealt with and also in respect of the value and quantity of the fibre and tow produced. A general speeding up of the mill was effected by placing the stripper hands on piece work and by carefully co-ordinating the various processes of manufacture, with the result that the mill has been able to deal with five tons of green leaf a day instead of only four tons as hitherto. Indeed, the actual amount of green leaves dealt with by the mill during the year averaged 5 tons 7 cwt. per working day.

Receipts.

It will be seen that the mill receipts from sale of produce amounted to £5,847, as compared with £2,812 in the previous year, due to the exceptionally high prices of fibre and tow, which during the year averaged £32 5*s.* 0*d.* and £18 11*s.* 0*d.* per ton, respectively.

Expenditure.

	1914.		1915.	
Local payments.	£		£	
Purchase of leaves ..	1,430		1,997	
Cartage and lighterage	200		254	
Salaries and wages ..	931		1,008	
Miscellaneous	169		283	
	——	£2,730	——	£3,542
London payments.				
Freight	362		758	
Oil	229		199	
Miscellaneous	81		90	
	——	672	——	1,047
		£3,402		£4,589

Expenditure was considerably higher than in the previous year, the two main items of increase being purchase of leaves and freight. The former varies with the current price of fibre, purchases of leaves

being made on a five per cent. basis of the London market price, by standing agreement with the growers. Owing to the War, freight charges ruled high throughout the year, the actual freightage paid on shipments of fibre and tow working out at 57*s.* per ton weight as compared with the normal pre-war rate of 37*s.*

Private Mills.—There is still only one private mill in the island, but it is hoped that at least one other private mill will be working before another year has passed. The mill owned by Messrs. Solomon & Co., was running continuously throughout the year, and dealt with 1,451 tons of green leaves, producing 152 tons of fibre and 43 tons of tow.

The year under review has been an exceptionably favourable one to the industry generally. The abnormally high prices obtaining on the London market have enabled the Government mill to accumulate substantial reserve funds, and at the same time cultivators have benefited considerably by the proportionately high prices they have received for their leaves. This has naturally encouraged further clearing and planting operations, and the amount of land now under flax cultivation may be estimated at 730 acres, which figure is likely to increase year by year. The industry is now the most valuable asset the Colony possesses. It is capable of still further development and expansion, in the way of both planting and milling; and it only remains for private enterprise and capital to take advantage of what has now been proved to be a paying industry.

Lace-making.—The following figures show the transactions of the Government Lace School during the year under review:—

Receipts.

	£	*s.*	*d.*
Work sold—			
League of Empire (London)	10	11	6
South Africa	354	19	10
Local	75	15	11½
	£441	7	3½

Expenditure.

	£	*s.*	*d.*
Pay of workers	149	6	2
Purchase of material	14	0	1½
Rent, rates and taxes	22	0	0
Incidentals	12	7	4
	£197	13	7½

The year under review was in some respects a critical one in the history of the Government Lace School. As was anticipated, the European War seriously affected the saleability of the school's work, especially so far as London sales were concerned, and by the middle of the year funds began to run short. As an alternative to saddling the school with further debt it was decided to endeavour to realise

a portion of the considerable assets which the school possessed in the shape of accumulated stocks of unsold work. With this object in view the school was temporarily closed, and the Manageress, Miss Girdwood, was deputed on a special mission to South Africa. The success of the tour exceeded all expectations, and resulted in a net profit of £341, of which £100 represented repayment of orders for work. In consequence, by the end of the year, the school was enabled to pay off its outstanding liabilities and to start again with a clean sheet. This satisfactory result is entirely due to the personal efforts of Miss Girdwood, who, with her usual untiring devotion to the interests of the school, spared no personal trouble or expense to make her tour in South Africa a success.

(D.) Shipping.

The number of vessels that called at the island during the year was 45, being 35 less than in the previous year, and the lowest on record. The tonnage was 200,393, as compared with 396,956 in 1914. Vessels of three nationalities called during the year, British heading the list with a total of 39, followed by Norwegian five, and Dutch one. There were no visits from whaling vessels. This marked decrease of shipping, under all flags, must be attributed to the dislocation of shipping and the adverse effect on marine trade in general caused by the War.

The mail service was continued by the Union-Castle Company under contract with the Imperial Government. This company provide a four-weekly service to and from England and South Africa, which has, with a few exceptions, been regularly and punctually carried out.

On the 15th November, part of the crew (18 souls, including the captain) of the British steamship "Indian Monarch," of Glasgow, reached the west side of the island in an open row-boat, which was assisted to the shore by the harbour master's boat. The "Indian Monarch" was on a voyage from New York to New Zealand, and Australia with general cargo, and was burnt at sea, about 420 miles S.S.E. of St. Helena. The total crew of 35 left the burning vessel in two boats, one of which, containing 17 hands, has not been heard of since.

The total number of vessels sighted was 102, or 31 less than in 1914. Of this number 57 were communicated with by signal and 45 were boarded by the harbour master. No vessels were boarded by licensed traders, as the Ordinance governing "trading with passing vessels" has been suspended for the period of the War.

Twenty-seven vessels entered and cleared at the port of Jamestown during the year. The cargo shipped and discharged by these vessels amounted to 6,650 tons, as compared with 6,155 tons in the previous year.

III.—LEGISLATION.

Six Ordinances were enacted during the year under review, of which two were in connection with public expenditure, and the remainder dealt with Customs dues.

Eleven Proclamations were issued, five of which prescribed the maximum retail price at which articles of food might be sold; four dealt with matters connected with the War, and one exempted the St. Helena Volunteers from payment of the Road Tax.

IV.—EDUCATION.

There are nine elementary schools in the Island. Of these, three are Government schools, four are supported by the Hussey Charity Fund, one by the Benevolent Society, and one by the Lord Bishop of the Diocese. The last two receive annual grants-in-aid from the Colonial Government of £15 and £20 respectively.

The number of children attending the above schools during the year was:—

	Boys.	Girls.	Total.
Government schools	161	197	358
Other schools	178	175	353

The usual elementary subjects have been taught and no changes in the ordinary curriculum have been considered necessary. Lessons on the causes and progress of the War have been given periodically to all standards, and the children have taken a keen and intelligent interest in the work.

It is unfortunate that the financial condition of the Colony does not admit of the introduction of a scheme of secondary or technical education.

The usual pupil teachers' classes have been held regularly throughout the year, under the personal supervision of Mr. Tucker, and have been well attended. Nine candidates sat for examination at the end of the year, of whom four were from the Government schools, four from the Hussey Charity, and one from the Benevolent Society school.

The schools were well attended, although there were 21 prosecutions under the Education Ordinance, an increase of 17 as compared with the previous year. This is largely due to the fact that the schools were not closed owing to sickness as in the past two or three years, but full terms were kept.

V.—GOVERNMENT INSTITUTIONS.

(A.) Hospital.

There were 189 admissions to the civil hospital during the year, being an increase of 61 as compared with the previous year.

There were eleven deaths, a percentage of 5·7, as compared with nine deaths and a percentage of 7·3 in 1914.

The building of the new operating theatre, which was begun in the latter part of 1914, was unavoidably delayed owing to the difficulty of importing teak wood, but good progress was made towards the end of the year. and it is hoped that the building will be ready for use early in 1916.

The Hospital Emergency Fund continues to be of the greatest service in assisting the poorer patients to defray hospital expenses. The fund is supported entirely by voluntary subscriptions.

A few changes have taken place in the hospital staff. In August Miss Hart returned from leave and resumed her duties as lady superintendent.

Miss Davies arrived to join the nursing staff in February, replacing Miss Perkins, who had completed her three years' service in the Colony.

The Colonial Surgeon, Dr. Arnold, was absent from the Colony throughout the year, having obtained a temporary commission in the Royal Army Medical Corps for the period of the War. His duties were admirably carried out by Dr. Draper, who acted as Colonial Surgeon during the year.

The nursing and administration of the hospital have been carried out in the most exemplary manner by the lady superintendent, Miss Hart, and nursing staff.

(B.) Savings Bank.

The number of depositors on the books of the Savings Bank on the 31st December was 133, the same number as in the previous year.

The total sum deposited during the year amounted to £2,167 7*s*. 0*d*., as compared with £2,006 17*s*. 0*d*. in 1914. Withdrawals amounted to £2,715 17*s*. 9*d*. Three depositors withdrew sums of £100 and over for investment in the War Loan.

The bank's transactions for the year showed an excess £117 0*s*. 6*d*. in revenue over expenditure.

The amount standing to the credit of depositors on the 31st December, 1914, was £8,752 18*s*. 9*d*. Against this amount stock to the value (purchase price) of £11,698 10*s*. 5*d*. is invested. The market value of this stock on the date named was £9,914.

VI.—JUDICIAL STATISTICS.

(A.) Criminal.

Supreme Court.—No cases were committed for trial before the Supreme Court during the year under review.

Police Court.—In this Court 126 cases were dealt with by the police magistrate, as against 64 in the previous year. This number includes 37 prosecutions under the Education, Road Tax, and Drainage Ordinances.

In addition to the above, 102 trivial cases were dealt with by the police without having recourse to the Police Court.

There were fifteen cases of flogging, five for theft, and eight for mischievous conduct, one for assault, and one for juvenile smoking.

(B.) Prisons.

The number of prisoners committed to gaol during the year was twenty-four, an increase of thirteen as compared with the previous year. The daily average number in gaol was 1·6, a decrease of ·8.

The cost of maintaining the gaol was £100 17*s.* 3*d.*

VII.—VITAL STATISTICS.

(A.) Population.

The estimated civil population on the 31st December, 1915, amounted to 3,594, being an increase of 31 over the estimated population in 1914. This figure does not include the naval and military garrison, or the crew of the cable ship "Britannia."

Civilian emigrants numbered 63 and immigrants 60, as compared with 70 and 64 respectively in 1914.

Births numbered 87 and deaths 53.

The birth-rate was considerably lower than in 1914, being 24·4 as compared with 27·3. The number of illegitimate births registered was 30, as against 23 in 1914.

The death-rate slightly increased, being 14·7 as compared with 14·6 in the previous year.

Of the total number of deaths, eight were over 70 years of age, eight over 80, and one at the age of 96. Thirty-one deaths were in Jamestown, and twenty-two in the country districts.

Marriages solemnised during the year numbered 26, being four more than in 1914.

(B.) Public Health.

There is nothing special to record as regards the health of the island, which was on the whole good during the year under review. There were two epidemics of influenza, one of which, in March and April, was exceptionally severe and spread very rapidly through the island. Fortunately there were no fatal cases, owing to the fact that the complication of broncho-pneumonia did not manifest itself as in previous epidemics.

There were no cases of enteric or dysentery during the year, but there were several new cases of both early and late tuberculosis to report. This disease, unfortunately, appears to be on the increase, and a sanatorium for the isolation of tuberculous patients is sadly needed.

The infant mortality was very high, due partly to malnutrition and partly to delay in seeking medical advice in cases of infantile diarrhœa, vomiting, and convulsions.

A scheme for improving the water supply in the Half Tree Hollow district has been approved, and will be carried out early in the coming year.

(C.) Sanitary.

The Board of Health have dealt with various matters of minor importance. The slaughter houses and mineral water factories have been effectually supervised.

There have been no prosecutions under the Public Health Ordinance.

The town water supply has been fairly good throughout the year. The erection of a tank on the wharf has so far met the requirements of shipping without causing any shortage in the town.

(D.) Climate.

(*a*) Meteorological Station, Hutts Gate.

Barometer.—The mean pressure for the year was 28·082 inches, as against 28·077 inches in the previous year.

Temperature.—The mean temperature was 61·9°, as compared with 61·7° in 1914. 83·0° was the absolute maximum, recorded on the 10th and 23rd April, the absolute maximum in the previous year being 81·6°, on the 9th February. The absolute minimum was 49·1°, on the 19th August, as against 51·0° on the 31st July in 1914.

Rainfall.—The total rainfall was 41·590 inches, being 7·630 inches less than in 1914. The maximum fall, 1·380 inches, was recorded on the 2nd May, as compared with 1·120 inches on the 28th August of the previous year. Eight inches of rain fell in July, on 29 days, which is considered a heavy monthly fall. The total number of rainy days during the year under report was 269, as compared with 288 in 1914.

Wind.—The mean force for the year was 2·9, which is equivalent to a velocity of between 14 and 17 miles per hour, and a slight increase over the velocity in the previous year. Thirteen calm days were recorded, which represents an increase of 10 days over 1914.

The prevailing direction of the wind throughout the year was south east.

VIII.—POSTAL, TELEGRAPH, AND TELEPHONE SERVICES.

(A.) Post Office.

Revenue.—The total revenue derived from the Post Office during the year under review amounted to £539 9*s.* 9*d.*, being a decrease of £718 6*s.* 4*d.* as compared with the previous year. This large decrease is due to a falling off in the sale of postage stamps to non-resident collectors and dealers, the majority of whom are of enemy nationality. There is also a decrease in taxed mail matter owing to the fact that the troops of the garrison are exempted from this tax during the period of the war.

Expenditure.—The expenditure of the department was £447 19*s.* 0*d.*, as compared with £399 13*s.* 4*d.* in the previous year. The increase is due to the General Post Office, London, having claimed a larger share of sea-carriage of mails from this Colony.

Money and Postal Orders.—Transactions under this head showed a net decrease of £892 as compared with the previous year.

(B.) Telegraphs.

Communication by the Eastern Telegraph Company's submarine cables to Europe and South Africa was maintained without interruption throughout the year. No changes were made in the tariff rates. On the 31st December the company's local staff numbered 27, an increase of three as compared with the previous year.

(C.) Telephones.

No changes have been made in the system, which has worked satisfactorily throughout the year. It is maintained entirely by private subscriptions.

The receipts from rents of instruments and message charges were £82 14*s.* 3*d.*, and the expenditure on upkeep and salaries of employees was £80 2*s.* 4*d.*

IX.—GENERAL OBSERVATIONS.

(A.) Roads.

A sum of £562 5*s.* 11*d.* was expended during the year in maintaining the principal rural roads in a state of repair. The extension of the flax-growing industry causes increasing wear and tear on the

country roads, especially those leading to the mills. A small tax levied on leaves carted to the mills has enabled more money to be expended on road works, with satisfactory results. The purchase by the Colonial Government of additional animals and carts has also expedited the carting of road material, which had always hitherto been a matter of considerable difficulty and expense.

The roads, streets, and bridges in Jamestown were kept in order at an expenditure of £60.

The amount collected under the Road Tax Ordinance during the year was £66 18*s.* 0*d.*, being £19 16*s.* 0*d.* less than in 1914. The tax was paid by 446 persons, as against 578 in the previous year, owing to exemptions being granted, under Article II. of the Ordinance, to members of the St. Helena Volunteers.

There were only two prosecutions for non-payment of the tax.

(B.) Land Grants and General Value of Land.

Five grants of Crown waste land were made during the year by the Commissioners of Crown Property, amounting to five acres. The above includes a grant of land to the Lord Bishop of the diocese for the extension of the present burial ground at St. Paul's Cathedral.

The general value of land remains the same, namely, good pasture or arable land at from £5 to £10 per acre.

(C.) Rate of Wages and Cost of Living.

There has been a slight improvement in the rate of wages, the ordinary wage for casual labour having been raised from 1*s.* 6*d.* to 2*s.* a day, whilst unskilled labourers permanently employed by the Public Works and other Government Departments, are paid at the rate of 2*s.* 6*d.* a day.

On the other hand, the cost of the actual necessaries of life, as sold by retail in the shops, has again increased and is likely in some cases to go still higher.

The following table compares the present and pre-war prices of the staple articles of food :—

	Pre-war prices.	Present prices.	Increase per cent.
Flour per lb.	2*d.*	3*d.*	50
Rice „ „	2*d.*	2$\frac{3}{4}$*d.*	37
Sugar „ „	2$\frac{1}{2}$*d.*	4$\frac{1}{2}$*d.*	80
Bread per loaf	3*d.*	4*d.*	33
Salted Beef, per lb. ..	6*d.*	7*d.*	16
Salted Pork „ „ ..	8*d.*	9*d.*	12
Tinned Milk per tin ..	6*d.*	8*d.*	33

(D.) Departments and Institutions.

Public Works Department.

The total expenditure for the year was £2,088 0*s.* 8*d.*, of which £252 11*s.* 8*d.* was under "Works Extraordinary." Under the latter head a sum of £100 was expended in clearing a wide belt around Plantation Forest and planting with flax. This work should not only remove the immediate danger of invasion by white ants, but should also prove a very remunerative investment as soon as the flax is ready for milling.

Reconstruction of Jamestown Wharf.

Satisfactory progress has been made in this work, which was commenced in March, 1914, under the supervision of Mr. Alexander Thomson and his assistant, Mr. Hogg.

For the first three months of the year the weather was very unfavourable to under-water work and all operations had to be suspended for a period of five weeks. From April to August conditions were more favourable and good progress was made in spite of constant interruptions due to occasional spells of bad weather.

The reconstruction works were originally estimated to cost £11,000, and the total expenditure up to the end of the year under review amounted to £9,025 5*s.* 7*d.* It is hoped that the work will be completed in the course of the ensuing year.

(E.) Miscellaneous.

The main feature of interest in an otherwise uneventful year of the Colony's life is the effect which the European War has had on its financial and economical conditions. As regards the former, it has to be noted that the Colony's revenue during the year under review was the lowest recorded since 1909, the year of the Colony's greatest financial depression. This set-back, however, may safely be regarded as only temporary, being due to abnormal conditions arising out of the War. On the other hand the general economic conditions prevailing in the Colony are a decided improvement on those obtaining in the previous year. The increased cost of living has been to a great extent counterbalanced by higher wages and abundance of employment. A considerable amount of money has been expended on the island by the Imperial Government in connection with military defence arrangements, and also on reconstruction of the Jamestown wharf. This latter work has given constant employment throughout the year to a considerable number of labourers from the town population, where the unemployment problem is always acutest. In the country districts, the thriving condition of the flax industry, with two mills running continuously throughout the year and the clearing and planting of new ground, has provided ample means of employment. These, together with service in the Volunteer Corps, have absorbed practically all surplus labour both in the town and country districts.

To a certain extent this improvement in economic conditions can only be regarded as temporary. The completion of the Jamestown wharf, the eventual withdrawal of the temporary garrison, and the disbandment of the local Volunteer Corps, are bound to cause a reaction. Fortunately the island has now a well-established and steadily growing industry to fall back upon, which will avert anything approaching a repetition of the serious unemployment problems which followed on the withdrawal of the permanent garrison in 1906. It may be confidently expected that the reaction, when it does come, will be nothing worse than a return to the moderate but steadily rising standard of prosperity which the Colony had reached during the years immediately preceding the outbreak of war.

H. E. S. CORDEAUX,

Governor and Commander-in-Chief.

The Castle,
St. Helena,
14th June, 1916.

COLONIAL REPORTS, &c.

The following recent reports, &c., relating to His Majesty's Colonial Possessions have been issued, and may be obtained from the sources indicated on the title page:—

ANNUAL.

No.	Colony, &c.	Year.
862	Straits Settlements	1914
863	Northern Territories of the Gold Coast	,,
864	Ashanti	,,
865	Cyprus	1914–1915
866	Swaziland	,,
867	Somaliland	,,
868	British Honduras	1914
869	British Solomon Islands	1914–1915
870	Tongan Islands Protectorate	,,
871	Barbados	,,
872	Falkland Islands	1914
873	Uganda	1914–1915
874	British Guiana	,,
875	Mauritius	1914
876	Leeward Islands	1914–1915
877	Trinidad and Tobago	,,
878	Nigeria	1914
879	Cayman Islands	1914–1915
880	St. Lucia	,,
881	East Africa Protectorate	,,
882	Imperial Institute	1914
883	Nyasaland	1914–1915
884	Gilbert and Ellice Islands	,,
885	Weihaiwei	1915
886	Zanzibar	,,
887	Fiji	,,
888	Sierra Leone	,,
889	Turks and Caicos Islands	,,
890	Gambia	,,
891	Trinidad and Tobago	,,
892	Hong Kong	,,
893	Ashanti	,,
894	Gold Coast	,,
895	Malta	1915–1916

MISCELLANEOUS.

No.	Colony, &c.	Subject.
79	Northern Nigeria	Mineral Survey, 1907–8 and 1908–9.
80	Nyasaland	Mineral Survey, 1908–9.
81	Southern Nigeria	Mineral Survey, 1908–9.
82	Imperial Institute	Rubber and Gutta-percha.
83	Southern Nigeria	Mineral Survey, 1910.
84	West Indies	Preservation of Ancient Monuments, &c.
85	Southern Nigeria	Mineral Survey, 1911.
86	Southern Nigeria	Mineral Survey, 1912.
87	Ceylon	Mineral Survey.
88	Imperial Institute	Oilseeds, Oils, &c.
89	Southern Nigeria	Mineral Survey, 1913.
90	St. Vincent	Roads and Land Settlement.

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1916.

COLONIAL REPORTS—ANNUAL.

No. 933.

ST. HELENA.

REPORT FOR 1916.

(For Report for 1915 see No. 896.)

Presented to Parliament by Command of His Majesty

October, 1917.

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No. 933.

ST. HELENA.

(For Report for 1915 see No. 896.)

THE ACTING GOVERNOR TO THE SECRETARY OF STATE.

The Castle,
St. Helena,
28th July, 1917.

SIR,

I HAVE the honour to transmit herewith the Colony's Blue Book, together with my Report thereon, for the year 1916.

I have, &c.,
W. DIXON,
Lt.-Col. R.M.A., Acting Governor.

The Right Honourable
Walter H. Long, M.P.,
Secretary of State for the Colonies.

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ANNUAL REPORT FOR THE YEAR 1916.

I.—FINANCIAL.

(A.) Revenue.

The revenue collected during 1916 amounted to £6,947 4*s.* 6*d.*, being an increase of £480 15*s.* 4*d.* on the revenue collected in 1915, and £732 15*s.* 6*d.* less than the estimated revenue for 1916. This increase was mainly due to increased Customs Tariffs and the levy of a War Tax of one penny on penny postages, both brought into force during the year under review. The actual sum received from this additional taxation amounted to £405 19*s.* 5*d.* The decrease on the estimated revenue was mainly due to there being no importations of coal and less shipping to be supplied with water.

(B.) Expenditure.

The Colony's expenditure for the year, exclusive of extraordinary military expenditure and wharf repairs, amounted to £9,454 15*s.* 6*d.* Extraordinary military expenditure amounted to £6,262 14*s.* 6*d.*, or £2,100 11*s.* 11*d.* more than was estimated. This excess is accounted for by payment for certain rations for 1915 not being claimed by the Military Authorities until 1916, and also by reason of a sum being claimed by the same Authorities on readjustment of accounts for 1915. Had it not been for these payments there would have been a saving under this head.

Extraordinary wharf repairs amounted to £276 12*s.* 10*d.* more than the estimated amount of £2,250. These excesses, however, were met by the grant-in-aid from the Imperial Treasury, and the actual ordinary expenditure of the Colony for 1916 was £109 6*s.* 4*d.* more than in 1915.

(C.) Grants-in-aid.

The excess of total expenditure over revenue was met by a grant-in-aid from the Imperial Exchequer of £13,678. This grant-in-aid was received by the Colony to reimburse itself for general purposes, wharf repairs, and for military expenditure for 1915 as well as 1916.

(D.) Assets and Liabilities.

The Colony's liabilities on 1st December, 1916 exceeded its assets by £867 11*s.* 3*d.*, being an improvement of £434 9*s.* 8*d.* as compared with the same date in 1915.

(E.) Currency.

Bills on the Crown Agents for the Colonies to the amount of £18,201 were issued during 1916, and remittances by money and postal orders

amounted to £5,325, making a total of £23,526 as against £22,687 in the previous year, being an increase of £839.

Specie imported amounted to £2,000, and the sum exported in worn coin was £240 for return to the Royal Mint.

The amount of cash, Imperial currency, and Bank of England notes in circulation at the end of the year was approximately £9,000.

II.—TRADE, AGRICULTURE, AND INDUSTRIES.

(A.) Trade.

Revenue.

The Customs revenue for the year 1916 amounted to £3,688 4*s.* 3*d.*, being an increase of £291 7*s.* 8*d.* as compared with the revenue for 1915. This increase is due mainly to export duties on an increased amount of fibre and tow exported (£49 18*s.* 6*d.*), import duties chiefly on a larger quantity of beer imported (£127 4*s.* 3*d.*), and the dues collected under the "War Taxation Customs Ordinance No. 1 of 1916," which, for the 4½ months that it was in operation, amounted to £165 19*s.* 5*d.*

On the other hand decreases occurred under "Water" £52, the amount supplied to His Majesty's ships and transports having decreased by 702 tons; "Warehouse Rent," £10 0*s.* 11*d.*, less goods being stored in bond; and "Tonnage Dues," £11 19*s.* 0*d.*

Expenditure.

The Customs expenditure for the year amounted to £507 4*s.* 2*d.*, being an increase of £60 13*s.* 0*d.* as compared with 1915. The rebate of duty on liquor, cigars, and cigarettes imported for the garrison amounted to £94 18*s.* 1*d.* as against £12 2*s.* 8*d.* in 1915, which more than accounts for this increase.

Imports.

The total values of imports during 1916 amounted to £46,514, being an increase of £3,055 over those of 1915. Of this increase £1,619 was due to new machinery imported for flax mills, beer and wine, £1,018 increase; and foodstuffs, £2,574; which, in spite of larger initial cost price of food, tends to testify to the gradually increasing ability of the islanders generally to purchase more of what to them are luxuries. In 1916 the Colonial Government imported £2,000 specie as against £1,000 in 1915.

The principal decreases in imports occurred in cement and lime, drapery, grain, stationery, sugar, timber and building material, and there is a welcome decrease (£131) in the amount of spirits imported.

Exports.

The total value of exports for 1916 amounted to £24,636, an increase of £11,223.

The principal exports as compared with 1915 were —

Articles.	1915.	1916.	Increase.	Decrease.
	£	£	£	£
Animals. Calves ..	443	369	—	74
„ Sheep ..	70	—	—	70
Hay	132	225	93	—
Hides and skins ..	376	455	79	—
Metal, old	90	92	2	—
Oil, paraffin..	31	—	—	31
Potatoes	313	488	175	—
Specie	—	240	240	—
Wool..	856	859	3	—
Fibre and tow ..	11,101	21,907	10,806	—

There is again a considerable increase in the value of fibre and tow exported, which is not alone due to enhanced prices received in the London market, but also to increased shipments, 472 tons having been exported during the year as against 395 tons in 1915.

(B.) Agriculture, Stock, Forests, and Gardens.

From an agricultural point of view the greatly diminished rainfall (10·57 inches decrease) rendered 1916 an unsatisfactory year. The insufficiency of rain, more particularly in the latter half of the year, caused many crops to fail. This was noticeable in the case of potatoes, of which 16 tons of seed were obtained from Messrs. Sutton & Sons, and sold to 69 different growers at cost price, nearly all of which failed to crop well. The want of rain, however, cannot be held entirely to blame, for were the extermination of the numerous agricultural pests which exist understood, and thoroughly prosecuted throughout the Island, there is no doubt that much would be saved that is now lost. This is also the case with fruit culture, but small success in which can be expected while pests abound. The services of an agricultural expert with a knowledge of forestry would be a very valuable acquisition for the Island.

Cattle suffered somewhat from the continued dry weather of the latter part of the year. The same cause, combined with insect pests, rendered the raising and planting out of forest trees from seed unsatisfactory. Additional new ground was put under cultivation at Plantation, on which fodder for Government transport animals was very successfully grown.

The sale of fruit from Maldivia Garden realised £50 8*s.* 2*d.*, as compared with £45 3*s.* 5*d.* during 1915.

The Government pasture lands at Botley's Lay produced a revenue of £162 2*s.* 6*d.*, against which expenditure to the amount of £99 14*s.* 10*d.* was incurred; £20 of this was expended on repairs to the shepherd's cottage.

(C.) Industries.

Fibre.—The figures shown below for the years 1914, 1915, and 1916, show the satisfactory results of the working of the Government Mill, and private mills could doubtless show equally satisfactory, if not

better, results, as, generally speaking, they grow and mill their own leaves, whereas the Government mill buys them from small growers.

	1914.	1915.	1916.
Number of working days	262	265	278
Leaves milled (tons)	1,257	1,417	1,708½
Fibre produced (tons) ..	127	152	180
Tow produced (tons)	37	37	42½
Receipts from sale of produce	£2,812	£5,847	£9,193
Expenditure	£3,402	£4,589	£8,061
Average market price of fibre per ton	£24 11 0	£32 5 0	£49 16 0
Ditto ditto tow ..	£13 0 0	£18 11 0	£28 5 0

Receipts.

As is seen from the above figures the sale of produce brought in £3,346 more than in 1915. This was due to the continually rising prices of fibre and tow which during the year averaged on the London market as shown above.

Expenditure.

	1915. £	1916. £
Local payments.		
Purchase of leaves ..	1,997	4,066
Cartage and lighterage ..	254	294
Salaries and wages ..	1,008	1,155
Miscellaneous	283	248
	£3,542	£5,763
New construction	—	302
London payments.		
Freight	758	948
Oil	199	467
Miscellaneous	90	159
	£1,047	£1,574
New engine	—	422
	£4,589	£8,061

Expenditure is seen to be again higher than in 1915, mainly owing to larger purchases of leaves at a price which rises with the London market price of fibre.

Leaves were purchased from 61 different small growers, as against 57 in 1915. Fuel oil rose considerably in price during the year, but this will no longer have to be imported owing to the installation of the new 44 h.p. suction gas plant, which should start working early in 1917. This installation accounts for £724 increase.

Private Mills.—Messrs. Solomon & Company's Mill, in Sandy Bay, has worked throughout the year, milling 1,433 tons of leaves from which 164 tons of fibre and 45 tons of tow were shipped. This firm is starting another mill in 1917. A new mill belonging to Messrs. Deason Brothers started work in July and by the end of the year had milled about 320 tons of leaves from which 34 tons of fibre and 6 tons of tow were shipped.

At the end of 1916 there were 150 males and 36 females exclusively employed in the flax industry as against 78 males and 6 females at the end of 1915, whilst the total estimated amount of land under flax cultivation increased from 730 acres in 1915 to 750 acres in 1916.

The constantly increasing price received for fibre is expected to attract more small growers to plant, and the breaking up of fresh ground for that purpose will, it is hoped, lead to greater cultivation of foodstuffs whilst the flax plants are yet young.

Lace.—Most unfortunately for this industry Miss Girdwood, manageress of the Government Lace School for nearly nine years, felt obliged, through constant strain of work and anxiety which had told seriously on her health, to resign her position towards the end of the year. In view of the general need for economy, therefore, it was decided to accept Miss Girdwood's resignation, suspend the annual grant of £120 from the Imperial Treasury, and to close the Lace School for one year or more. At the expiry of this period it is possible that a judgment may be formed as to the ability and willingness of women and girls who have been trained in the school to carry on the industry without its supervision and encouragement. If, however, as is more than probable, it is found that the industry is in need of further stimulus, the policy of re-opening the school can be considered. Miss Girdwood had these possibilities in view on resigning as she has offered her services, after a period of rest, and circumstances permitting, in the interests of the Island women and girls.

Although the school did not finally close until the beginning of 1917, it is perhaps desirable here to state its financial position on closing: Cash balance in hand showed £70 1*s.* 11½*d.*, whilst the value of work remaining unpaid for or unsold was, in South Africa £80, and in St. Helena £28. These amounts are being gradually collected, the former by Miss Girdwood and the latter by one of the local assistants of the school. Against these assets there is a loan of £253 3*s.* 7*d.* repayable to the Imperial Government.

(D.) Shipping.

The number of vessels calling at the Island during the year was 42, being three less than in 1915, with a total tonnage of 170,096. Vessels of five nationalities called, British heading the list with 35, followed by Dutch, three; Norwegian, two; French, one; and one American whaler. Of these, eight were war vessels or transports, 27 were merchant steamships, and six sailing vessels.

The mail service was continued by the Union-Castle Company, whose vessels made 22 calls from England and South Africa. The Eastern Telegraph Company's Cable ship "Britannia," usually stationed at St. Helena in normal times, was away on other stations from the month of May.

The total number of vessels sighted was 118, or 16 more than in 1915. Of this number 76 were communicated with by signal, 42 of which were boarded by the Harbour Master. None of these vessels were boarded by licensed traders. Twenty-three vessels entered and cleared at the port of Jamestown during the year, shipping and discharging cargo amounting to 3,876 tons, as compared with 6,650 tons in 1915. The decrease is mainly due to no coal having been landed.

III.—EDUCATION.

There are eight public elementary schools and one private school in the Island. Of the public schools three are Government, three are supported by the Hussey Charity Fund, one by the Benevolent Society, and one by the Lord Bishop of the Diocese assisted in the case of the last two by an annual grant from the Colonial Government.

The number of children attending the public schools during the year was :—

	Boys.	Girls.	Total.
Government schools ..	150	186	336
Other schools	193	161	354

The teaching of the usual elementary subjects and needlework has continued throughout the year, and the interest shown in the cause and progress of the War has been kept alive. Mr. Tucker, the Supervisor of Schools, proceeded to England on leave of absence in September, intending to join the Army temporarily, and Miss Short, the head teacher, was appointed acting supervisor in his absence.

Pupil teachers' classes have been held regularly during the year. Nine candidates sat for examination, of whom four were from Government and five from Hussey Charity Schools.

It is much to be regretted that funds do not permit of a scheme for either secondary or technical education. The numbers of efficient masons and mechanical tradesmen are decreasing, and their want will be felt in the future.

The schools were on the whole well attended, there being 29 prosecutions under the Education Ordinance, an increase of 8 on those during 1915.

IV.—GOVERNMENT INSTITUTIONS.

(A.) Hospital.

There were 168 admissions to the hospital during the year, of which 96 were treated in the male ward and 74 in the female ward. The number of admissions shows a decrease of 21 as compared with 1915. The daily average of patients was 8·8.

There were 10 deaths, a percentage of 5·9, the figures in 1915 being 11 deaths and a percentage of 5·7.

The new operating theatre, the surgical fittings being presented by His Excellency the Governor and Mrs. Cordeaux, was opened in May, and has filled a long-felt want. Five operations have been performed therein during the year.

Miss Hart, Lady Superintendent, was on sick leave from 1st October to the end of the year. During her absence the duties at the Hospital were very efficiently carried out by the nursing staff, amongst whom there were no changes.

Dr. Draper, Acting Colonial Surgeon, left the Island on the 16th December, on completion of his two years' engagement. Major Foulds, R.A.M.C., carried out the duties of Colonial Surgeon till the end of the year.

(B.) Savings Bank.

The number of depositors on the books of the Savings Bank on 31st December was 143, being an increase of 10 during the year.

The total sum deposited during the year was £2,763, as compared with £2,167 7*s.* 0*d.* during 1915, an increase of £595 13*s.* 0*d.* Withdrawals amounted to £3,135. Upwards of £1,000 with interest thereon were repaid by Bills of Exchange to four depositors towards the end of the year.

The Bank's accounts for the year showed an excess of £79 4*s.* 11*d.* in revenue over expenditure.

The amount standing to the credit of depositors on 31st December, 1916 was £8,596 13*s.* 5*d.* Against this amount stock to the value (purchase price) of £11,851 14*s.* 8*d.* is invested, the market value of which on the date named was £8,734 2*s.* 6*d.*

V.—JUDICIAL STATISTICS.

(A.) Criminal.

Supreme Court.—One prisoner was arraigned before this Court and convicted for obtaining money under false pretences, but owing to the previous good character and youth of the accused no sentence was passed.

Police Court.—In this Court 103 cases were dealt with by the Police Magistrate, a decrease of 23 compared with 1915. This number includes 29 prosecutions under the Education, and 13 under the Road Tax, Ordinances.

112 trivial cases were dealt with by the police without bringing them to Court.

There were three cases of flogging for theft during the year.

(B.) Prisons.

The number of prisoners committed to gaol during the year was twenty, against twenty-four during 1915. Two of this number were under observation for insanity. The daily average number in gaol was ·77, the lowest on record for many years.

The cost of maintaining the gaol was £79 12*s.* 7*d.*

VI.—VITAL STATISTICS.

(A.) Population.

The estimated civil population on the 31st December, 1916 was 3,604, being an increase of 10 over the estimated population in 1915. The strength of the Imperial Garrison and St. Helenians in the crew of the cable ship " Britannia " are not included in these figures.

Civilian emigrants numbered 54, and immigrants 58, as compared with 63 and 60 respectively in 1915.

Births numbered 108, and deaths 51.

The birth-rate was higher than for some years, being 29·96 as compared with 24·4 in 1915. The number of illegitimate births registered was 24 as against 30 in 1915.

The death-rate was 13·6 as against 14·7 in 1915.

Of the deaths registered 10 were over 70 years of age, and six over 80, including one of 92 and one of 98 years of age. There were 27 deaths in Jamestown and 24 in country districts.

Marriages during the year numbered 24, being two less than in 1915.

(B.) Public Health.

The health of the Island during 1916 was generally good, and apart from one shortlived outbreak of scarlet fever from which there were no deaths, no infectious diseases were manifest. There was a small outbreak of chicken-pox which was not serious, though it caused one death. Of diphtheria and enteric fever there were no cases, which points to the efficiency of the sanitary arrangements of the Island, and of the concrete drinking water tanks in the Half Tree Hollow district, where these diseases were formerly frequent.

Tubercular cases have again slightly increased in number, as have also cases of minor venereal disease.

(C.) Sanitary.

The Board of Health have dealt with various matters of minor importance. Slaughter houses and mineral water factories have been effectually supervised.

The water supply throughout the year has been sufficient in spite of the unusually dry weather of the last few months of the year.

There have been no prosecutions under the Public Health Ordinance.

(D.) Climate.

Meteorological Station, Hutts Gate.

Barometer.—The mean pressure for the year under report was 28·068 ins.. 28·082 ins. being the mean in the previous year.

Temperature.—The mean temperature was 61·6°, as against 61·[illegible] in 1915.

The absolute maximum, 84·0° was recorded on the 17th February, 83·0° on the 10th and 23rd April, being the maximum in the previous year. The absolute minimum was 49·0° on the 8th May, as compared with 49·1° on the 19th August in 1915.

Rainfall.—31·020 inches of rain fell during the year, which is a decrease of 10·570 inches on the previous year, when the total was 41·590 inches. In September of the year under report only ·840 inches of rain fell, which is quite unusual for that month. The number of days on which rain fell was 258 as against 269 in 1915.

Wind.—The mean force for the year was 2·0, equivalent to a velocity of 14 miles per hour, being a slight decrease in velocity as compared with 1915. There were 14 calm days, being an increase of one day over 1915.

The following table gives the direction of the wind for the year :—

E.S.E.	7 days.
E.	1 day.
S.E.	224 days.
S.	17 „
S.S.E.	103 „
Calm	14 „

VII.—POSTAL, TELEGRAPH, AND TELEPHONE SERVICES.

(A.) Post Office.

Revenue.—The gross revenue from all sources during 1916 amounted to £786 3*s.* 4*d.*, being an increase of £246 13*s.* 7*d.* as compared with 1915. This increase is partly due to a better sale of postage stamps to non-residents, and to the War Tax of one penny on the ordinary penny postage stamp, started in September. The sale of these stamps up to the end of the year amounted to £240.

Expenditure.—Expenditure for the year amounted to £272 5*s.* 3*d.*, as compared with £447 19*s.* 0*d.* in 1915. The decrease is due to the General Post Office, London, not having claimed for sea carriage of mails from the Colony for 1916.

Money and Postal Orders.—Transactions in these showed a net decrease of £1,996 as compared with 1915.

(B.) Telegraphs.

Communication by the Eastern Telegraph Company's submarine cables to Europe and South Africa was maintained during the whole year. No changes were made in the tariff rates. The number of the Company's staff on 31st December, 1916 was 27, as it was on the same date in 1915.

(C.) Telephones.

About 40 miles of wire under the administrative system were maintained during the year and worked satisfactorily. The receipts from rent and messages were £81 13*s.* 9*d.* and expenditure £78 16*s.* 6*d.*

VIII.—GENERAL OBSERVATIONS.

(A.) Roads.

The sum of £552 12*s.* 2*d.* was expended during the year in maintaining the principal rural roads in such a state of repair as was possible with the sum available. As has been foreseen in former Reports the increase of the flax industry, enhanced by the dry weather experienced towards the end of the year, has caused a marked effect on the roads, and with the resources available little more than patchwork could be given to them. It is interesting to note that the actual weight of leaves, fibre, and tow, moved over the roads in connection with the flax industry was in 1914—3,214 tons; 1915—3,252 tons; and in

1916—3,933 tons. These figures mean a large amount of heavy traffic on roads not originally built for such, and which are very vulnerable to the effects of weather.

The roads, streets, and bridges in Jamestown were kept in order at an expenditure of £63 13*s.* 2*d.*

The amount collected under the Road Tax Ordinance during the year was £53 17*s.* 0*d.*, being £13 1*s.* 0*d.* less than in 1915. The tax was paid by 359 persons, as against 446 persons in the previous year, which is accounted for by the whole of the Volunteer Force, both embodied and unembodied, being exempt from the tax. Many who joined the force in 1915 had already paid the tax for that year.

There were 13 prosecutions during the year for the non-payment of the tax.

(B.) Land Grants and General Value of Land.

Three grants of land, amounting to four acres, were made by the Commissioners of Crown Property during the year.

The general value of land remains the same, namely, £5 to £10 per acre for good pasture or arable land.

(C.) Rate of Wages and Cost of Living.

The general rate of wages during 1916 has remained at 2*s.* a day for men and 1*s.* 3*d.* a day for females.

The cost of living has inevitably increased during the year as is shown by the following table of retail prices of the staple articles of food :—

	Pre-war prices.	1915. prices.	1916. prices.	Increase % over 1915.
Flour, per lb.	2*d.*	3*d.*	3½*d.*	16·5
Rice	2*d.*	2¾*d.*	2¾*d.*	*nil.*
Sugar	2½*d.*	4½*d.*	4½*d.*	*nil.*
Bread, per loaf	3*d.*	4*d.*	4½*d.*	12·5
Salt Beef, lb.	6*d.*	7*d.*	9½*d.*	35·7
„ Pork „	8*d.*	9*d.*	11½*d.*	27·7
Tinned Milk, tin	6*d.*	8*d.*	11*d.*	37·4
Lard, lb.	8*d.*	8*d.*	1/2	75

Fish, the staple diet of the poor, is still said to be scarce, but if the amount that is caught were always sold the prices charged by the fishermen could probably be lowered without loss to them.

(D.) Departments and Institutions.

Public Works Department.

The total expenditure for the year was £2,272 6*s.* 9*d.*, of which £443 3*s.* 7*d.* was under "Works Extraordinary." Of this latter sum £340 16*s.* 11*d.* was for the erection of above-ground concrete tanks for the water supply of the Half Tree Hollow district, which are proving a success both in bettering the health of the district and in increasing the supply, in dry seasons, to the barracks at Ladder Hill.

(E.) Miscellaneous.

The chief feature of the year under review has been the impetus given to the fibre industry by the continuous rise in prices obtained on the London market, the full benefits of which have been obtained by reason of the regular shipments of fibre and tow to the United Kingdom which have been available. It is generally hoped that the quality and preparation of the fibre shipped has been found such as to establish a good name on the market for the St. Helena product.

The general prosperity of the Island has undoubtedly increased in consequence of this impetus, but its effect has scarcely reached those of the poorer population who have not a breadwinner employed in the industry. It is they more especially who find difficulty in meeting the continual rise in prices, and often temporary shortage of certain foodstuffs. Hitherto there has appeared no valid reason for the latter, and if local merchants ordered larger consignments of those foodstuffs which keep well in the dry climate of Jamestown, these temporary shortages would not probably occur.

The uncomplaining manner in which these difficulties have generally been faced by the population merits the highest praise. For this reason it is to be regretted that the financial position would not allow an increase of wages to Government employees generally during the year, as a lead to all employers to grant a temporary advance in wages for so long as the present swollen prices prevail.

W. Dixon,

Lt.-Colonel R.M.A., Acting Governor.

The Castle,
St. Helena,
27th July, 1917.

COLONIAL REPORTS, &c.

The following recent reports, &c., relating to His Majesty's Colonial Possessions have been issued, and may be obtained from the sources indicated on the title page:—

ANNUAL.

No.	Colony, &c.	Year.
896	St. Helena	1915
897	Seychelles	"
898	Bechuanaland Protectorate	1915–1916
899	Gibraltar	1915
900	Bahamas	1915–1916
901	Swaziland	"
902	Somaliland	"
903	Cyprus	"
904	Ceylon	1915
905	Straits Settlements	"
906	Grenada	1915–1916
907	Falkland Islands	1915
908	Bermuda	"
909	Jamaica	1915–1916
910	British Guiana	1915
911	Basutoland	1915–1916
912	Barbados	"
913	Leeward Islands	"
914	Uganda	"
915	British Honduras	1915
916	Mauritius	"
917	Northern Territories of the Gold Coast	"
918	St. Lucia	1915–1916
919	Nyasaland	"
920	Nigeria	1915
921	East Africa Protectorate	1915–1916
922	Gilbert and Ellice Islands	"
923	Hong Kong	1916
924	Weihaiwei	"
925	Zanzibar	"
926	Fiji	"
927	Turks and Caicos Islands	"
928	Cayman Islands	1915–1916
929	Seychelles	1916
930	Trinidad and Tobago	"
931	Gibraltar	"
932	Bahamas	1916–1917

MISCELLANEOUS.

No.	Colony, &c.	Subject.
79	Northern Nigeria	Mineral Survey, 1907–8 and 1908–9.
80	Nyasaland	Mineral Survey, 1908–9.
81	Southern Nigeria	Mineral Survey, 1908–9.
82	Imperial Institute	Rubber and Gutta-Percha.
83	Southern Nigeria	Mineral Survey, 1910.
84	West Indies	Preservation of Ancient Monuments, &c.
85	Southern Nigeria	Mineral Survey, 1911.
86	Southern Nigeria	Mineral Survey, 1912.
87	Ceylon	Mineral Survey.
88	Imperial Institute	Oilseeds, Oils, &c.
89	Southern Nigeria	Mineral Survey, 1913.
90	St. Vincent	Roads and Land Settlement.

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COLONIAL REPORTS—ANNUAL.

No. 974.

ST. HELENA.

REPORT FOR 1917.

(For Report for 1916 see No. 933.)

Presented to Parliament by Command of His Majesty.
October, 1918.

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No. 974.

ST. HELENA.

ANNUAL REPORT FOR THE YEAR 1917.

I.—FINANCIAL.

(A.) Revenue.

The revenue collected during 1917 amounted to £7,109, being an increase of £162 on the revenue collected in 1916, and £1,591 less than the estimated revenue for 1917. This decrease on the estimated revenue was mainly due to reduction in the amount of dutiable commodities imported.

The Government Flax Mill funds contributed £120 to the general revenue of the Colony, and also gave a loan of £300 to the Government for the purpose of flax planting.

(B.) Expenditure.

The Colony's recorded expenditure for the year amounted to £15,966, or £3,175 more than the estimated expenditure. This includes a sum of £2,325 representing expenditure on the St. Helena Volunteers in 1915, passed through the account for 1917 as a final charge, and credited in the same account as an "Advance repaid." The actual expenditure for the year was therefore £13,641, or £850 in excess of estimate.

Savings amounting to £287 were effected under ten heads, whilst an additional actual saving of £25 was made under the head "Volunteers." Excess expenditure was principally incurred under "Post Office." Sea carriage for mails for 1915 and 1916 being met in 1917, and under "Public Works," due to necessary renovations of Public Buildings, repair of roads, rise in wages, etc.

The actual ordinary expenditure for 1917, exclusive of extraordinary military expenditure, was £1,266 less than for 1916.

(C.) Grants in Aid.

A grant in aid of £2,200 was received from the Imperial Exchequer for general purposes.

(D.) Assets and Liabilities.

The Colony's liabilities on 31st December, 1917, exceeded its assets by £5,199, being a set back of £4,331 as compared with the same date in 1916.

(E.) Currency.

Bills on the Crown Agents to the amount of £13,227 were issued during 1917, and remittances by money and postal orders amounted to £4,144, making a total of £17,371, as against £23,526 in 1916, being a decrease of £6,155. Considerable sums, however, were paid by means of Navy Bills for imports from South Africa.

The amount of cash, Imperial currency, and Bank of England notes in circulation at the end of the year was approximately £12,500.

(C509) 11/42. 1000/90. 11.18. B.&F.Ltd. G.11/2.

II.—TRADE, AGRICULTURE, AND INDUSTRIES.

(A.) TRADE.

Revenue.

The Customs revenue for the year 1917 amounted to £3,664 6*s.* 4*d.*, or £23 17*s.* 11*d.* less than the revenue in 1916, and £1,570 13*s.* less than the estimated revenue for 1917. "Export Duties" on fibre and tow, totalling £438 13*s.*, show an increase of £225 8*s.* 8*d.*, due both to an increase in the amount of fibre and tow exported and to the provisions of Ordinance No. 3 of 1917, which, coming into force in September, increased the tax on both fibre and tow by 10*s.* per ton.

The chief decrease of revenue appears under "Wine, Beer, Spirits, Tobacco" (£538 2*s.* 4*d.*).

Expenditure.

The Customs expenditure for the year amounted to £589 4*s.* 4*d.*, being an increase of £82 0*s.* 2*d.*, as compared with 1916. This increase is due to the rebate of duty on liquor, cigars, and cigarettes consumed by the garrison.

Imports.

The total value of imports during 1917 amounted to £51,301, being £4,787 more than the imports in 1916. This increase is mainly due to the arrival of coal, and the higher first cost of foodstuffs. The total increased value of all foodstuffs imported amounted to £3,053.

The principal decreases in imports occurred in drugs, drapery, hardware, oilman stores, and machinery, whilst alcoholic liquors showed a decrease of £712 in value.

Exports.

For the first time in the history of the Colony the value of exports during the year exceeded the imports, which is highly satisfactory. Exports amounted to £54,830 as against £24,635 in 1916, an increase of £30,195.

This increase is due to the value of fibre and tow exported, £53,113, as against £21,907 in 1917, and is accounted for, not only by the higher prices obtained, but also by the increased amount exported, viz. :—742 tons, against 472 tons in 1916.

(B.) AGRICULTURE, STOCK, FORESTS, AND GARDENS.

Crops throughout the year were favourable on the whole, mealies and oats as fodder and potatoes doing well. Seed for the latter, however was scarce, owing to the restrictions on the customary import from the United Kingdom, and the fact that many growers had not saved their own seed. Two tons were obtained in September from South Africa, but proved unproductive in the climate and soil. It is unfortunate that no cereals are now grown for human consumption, as they were to some extent in the past. The unchecked depredations of rats and birds would, however, seriously militate against their success at the present time. Could the necessary funds and the co-operation of the inhabitants be ensured there seems no reason why rats should not be practically exterminated by means of one or other of the bacterial preparations now obtainable, to the great benefit of the island generally.

A satisfactory rainfall made hay crops plentiful, and pasturage good. The pasturage area, however, was somewhat reduced during the year to be put under flax, and it seems likely to be still further reduced for the same purpose. The raising of forest trees from seed

has been satisfactory, and a number of saplings of the indigenous but disappearing Redwood tree have been obtained and are doing well. Vegetable gardens have suffered for the want of reliable seed, which in normal times is imported from England, locally saved seed seldom proving satisfactory. A certain quantity were obtained early in the year from Messrs. Sutton and Sons and issued gratis to small growers, and their produce helped to tide over shortages in food supply which occurred during the year.

(C.) INDUSTRIES.

Fibre.—The continual rise in prices for New Zealand hemp on the London market, and the very fortunate position by which the Colony has been enabled to get practically the whole of its produce to the United Kingdom without undue delay, combined to make the year a very prosperous one for the industry. There were ten opportunities for shipments during the year as against eleven in 1916, and on two occasions only was there insufficient space to ship all that was ready, and this was got away by November.

The following figures for the years 1916 and 1917 show the satisfactory results of the working of the Government Mill :—

	1916.	1917.
Number of working days ..	278	273
Leaves milled (tons) ..	1,708½	1,764
Fibre produced (tons) ..	180	167½
Tow produced (tons) ..	42½	79½
Receipts from sale of produce	£9,193	£14,290
Expenditure	£8,061	£12,393
Average price obtained for fibre per ton	£49 16 0	£81 11 6
Ditto ditto tow ..	£28 5 0	£47 3 9

Expenditure.

Local payments.	1916		1917	
Purchase of leaves ..	£4,066		£6,918	
Cartage and Lighterage.	294		386	
Salaries and Wages ..	1,155		1,179	
Freight	703		715	
Export Tax	102		121	
Contribution to Colonial Revenue..	—		120	
Miscellaneous	146		408 *	
	——	£6,466	——	£9,847
New construction		302		275
London payments.				
Freight	245		133	
Oil	467		183	
Repaid to Imperial Government	—		1,400	
Miscellaneous	159		235	
	——	871	——	£1,951
New engine		422		—
New hydraulic press * ..		—		320
		£8,061		£12,393

* Includes £300 loan to Colonial Government for flax planting.

Leaves were purchased from 68 different small growers, as against 61 in 1916, the total amount paid to these growers during the year being no less than £6,918. The circulation of this large sum is a measure of the prosperity of those inhabitants who grow flax, which is due alone to the inflated prices obtained for fibre and tow caused by the War. The high proportion of tow produced points to the fact that growers cut their leaves too young in order to benefit by these high prices.

The 44 h.p. suction gas plant at the Government Mill started working in the middle of February, and a very considerable saving in the cost of fuel oil has been made thereby. There is now sufficient reserve of power at the mill to increase considerably the output when the supply of leaves is increased.

Various improvements were carried out during the year at the mill, and the erection of a hydraulic press, which started working early in June, has resulted in a saving of over 35 per cent. on freight charges. Additional storage space, much needed for dry fibre, was also provided during the year at the mill.

The experiment of granting small plots of Crown land to inhabitants for the purpose of growing New Zealand flax, tried with success on a small scale in 1915 and 1916, was largely extended during 1917.

By this scheme loans have been made to those granted plots, in the form of flax suckers to the value of £5 in each case, repayment of which, together with a small rate of interest, is secured on the first crop and deducted from the proceeds of its sale to the Government Mill. The facilities thus offered have been readily taken up by would be small growers, 38 plots totalling about 33 acres having been granted by the end of 1917, on which approximately 100,000 suckers have been planted.

A loan of £300 from the Government Flax Mill funds was utilised in clearing, fencing, and planting two Government fields at Longwood about 7¼ acres in extent, with 30,000 flax suckers. Oats and vetch planted between the rows of suckers provided a very good crop of dry fodder, and seemed in no way to hinder the growth of the flax. The revenue of the Colony will undoubtedly benefit in years to come by the Government planting its own flax as funds become available.

Private Mills.—Messrs. Solomon & Company's mill at Broadbottom, commenced work in April. Together with their other mill in Sandy Bay, this firm milled a total of 2,355 tons of leaves from which 233 tons of fibre and 82 tons of tow were produced during the year. Messrs. Deason Brother's mill at Hutts Gate worked throughout the year, milling about 2,000 tons of leaves, from which they produced 201 tons of fibre and 98 tons of tow during the year.

At the end of 1917 there were 175 males and 42 females exclusively employed in the flax industry at the four mills, as against 150 males and 36 females at the end of 1916.

The estimated extent of land under flax cultivation increased during the year from 750 acres to about 900 acres.

Lace Industry.—Mainly owing to the impossibility of getting the proper thread for lace making, this industry is quiescent for the time being. A certain amount is made of very inferior thread and sold locally, which helps to keep the industry alive to some extent, but there would be no advantage in incurring the expense of reopening

the lace school under present conditions. The sum in the Government Savings Bank to the credit of the school on 31st December, 1917, was £146 17*s.* 7*d.*, the value of work then unpaid for or unsold amounting to £31 4*s.* 4*d.*.

(D.) Shipping.

The number of vessels calling at the Island during the year was 51, being nine more than in 19[illegible] with a total tonnage of 213,260. These were made up of the following nationalities: viz.:—British 42, American 3, Dutch 2, Norwegian 2, Swedish 2.

The mail service was continued by the Union Castle Company, whose vessels made 21 calls from England and South Africa.

The total number of vessels sighted during the year was 78, being 40 less than in 1916. Twenty vessels entered and cleared at the Customs during the year carrying cargo for the island, shipping and discharging cargo amounting to 4,976 tons as compared with 3,876 tons in 1916.

III.—EDUCATION.

The number of children on the rolls of the eight public elementary schools during the year was as follows:—

	Boys.	Girls.	Total
Government schools (3 in number)	157	185	342
Other schools (5 in number) ..	180	161	341

The teaching of the usual elementary subjects and needlework has continued throughout the year. Miss Short, the head teacher, has acted as Supervisor of Schools during the whole year.

The usual classes for pupil teachers have been held regularly during the year. Ten candidates sat for examination of whom five were from Government Schools.

The long felt want of technical instruction was met in the month of August by arrangements made with the Officer Commanding Troops. Since then 18 young men and boys have received continuous instruction from skilled men of the garrison in carpentry, telephone work, plumbing and fitting, blacksmithing, and shoemaking. Many of these youths have shown good aptitude at one or other of these trades, and their progress gives them promise of lucrative employment in the future.

Owing to the ravages of white ants the Country School building has become unsafe for occupation. Since July, therefore, the school has been held at Lufkins Tower, a residence which is the property of the Government and well adapted for the purpose.

Prosecutions under the Education Ordinance numbered 24, a decrease of five on those during 1916. The appointment of an Attendance Officer from the month of September, 1917, has resulted in the better attendance of children at school and a better idea of punctuality amongst teachers.

IV.—GOVERNMENT INSTITUTIONS.

(A.) Hospital.

There were 139 admissions to the hospital during the year, 85 being males and 54 females, being a decrease of 29 as compared with 1916. The daily average of patients was 7·1.

There were 11 deaths, being a percentage of 7·9.

The Lady Superintendent returned from leave early in the year. Of the three nurses two completed their three years in the Colony in March and November respectively, but nurses could not be obtained to relieve them. The former of these remained at duty until August, when she was obliged through ill health to return to England. The latter was still on duty at the end of the year, in spite of bad health.

Dr. O. J. Murphy arrived from England on 2nd January as Acting Colonial Surgeon.

(B.) Savings Bank.

The number of depositors on 31st December was 145.

The total sum deposited during the year was £2,727 2*s.*, whilst withdrawals amounted to £1,903 8*s.* 6*d.*

The expenditure of the bank for the year amounted to £370 3*s.* 6*d.*, being £19 2*s.* 6*d.* more than its revenue.

The amount standing to the credit of depositors on 31st December was £9,594 16*s.*

In September, Mr. J. Homagee, I.S.O., the Manager of the Bank, was taken seriously ill, and Mr. S. Cullen was appointed Acting Manager. At the end of the year Mr. Homagee resigned this and the other Government offices held by him.

VI.—JUDICIAL STATISTICS.

(A.) Criminal.

Supreme Court.—No cases were committed for trial before the Supreme Court during the year.

Police Court.—210 cases were dealt with by the Police Magistrate, an increase of 107 compared with 1916. Of these 201 were summarily convicted, offences including 24 under the Education, 30 under the Road Tax, and 50 under the Poor Law Ordinances.

Seventy-seven trivial cases were dealt with by the police without bringing them into Court.

There were three cases of flogging during the year under the Juvenile Smoking Ordinance.

(B.) Prisons.

Thirty-six persons were committed to gaol during the year, against 20 during 1916. The daily average number in gaol was 2·48.

The cost of maintaining the gaol was £122 4*s.* 6*d.*

(C.) Police Force.

The regular Police Force consists of one sergeant and four constables, one only of whom is stationed in the country districts. Special constables were employed in Jamestown for a short period to abate the nuisance of stone throwing by night.

VII.—VITAL STATISTICS.

(A.) Population.

The estimated civil population on 31st December, 1917, was 3,634, as compared with 3,604 on the same date of 1916.

There were 54 emigrants and 38 immigrants during the year, as compared with 54 and 58 respectively in 1916.

Amongst the civil population, deaths amounted to 50, *i.e.*, a rate of 13·7 per 1,000, as against 51 and 13·6 in 1916.

Births numbered 96, *i.e.*, a rate of 26·41 per 1,000, as against 108 and 29·96 in 1916. Illegitimate children registered in 1917 numbered 28, against 24 in 1916.

Of the deaths registered 14 were over 70, 8 over 80, and 1 over 90 years of age. There were 29 deaths in Jamestown and 21 in the Country districts.

Marriages during the year numbered 33, an increase of 9 on 1916.

(B.) Public Health.

Early in the year there were epidemics of dysentery and influenza, both of a mild type and causing no deaths. Later in the year these maladies reappeared in a more serious form, and directly or indirectly accounted for several deaths. A mild outbreak of chicken pox occurred in December, necessitating the closing and disinfecting of all schools. There were no cases of diphtheria or enteric fever.

Frequent shortage of food supplies, due not so much to the infrequency of steamship service as to the failure of importers to import sufficient to meet such contingencies, threatened seriously to undermine the health and stamina of the people, especially those dwelling in and around Jamestown.

The entire want of any qualified dental attention in the island, beyond the extraction of teeth by the Colonial Surgeon, tends to affect the general health in an increasing degree. The enervating climate, the nature of the water, and the high consumption of sugar by the inhabitants all tend to make dental caries very rapid, and to this want of dental attention the general low stamina of the inhabitants is mainly due.

(C.) Sanitary.

There is nothing of importance to report from a sanitary point of view. The keeping of pigs in Jamestown for the purpose of augmenting the food supply was recommended by a majority of the members of the Board of Health, but was disallowed for medical and sanitary reasons, records showing that, in years gone by, diseases were traceable to the keeping of pigs in the proximity of dwelling houses in the tropical climate and confined limits of Jamestown Valley.

The water supply throughout the year has been ample.

There were three prosecutions and convictions under the Public Health Ordinance during the year.

(D.) Climate.

Meteorological Station, Hutts Gate.

Barometer.—The mean pressure for the year was 28·104 inches, 28·068 being the mean for the previous year.

Temperature.—The mean temperature for 1917 was 61°·5 as against 61°·6 in 1916. The absolute maximum recorded was 84°·0 on the 10th March, as compared with 84°·0 on the 17th February of the preceding year. The lowest maximum 68°·9 was recorded on the 8th and 29th October. The absolute minimum was 50°·9 on the 5th September, as against 49°·0 on the 8th May of 1916.

Rainfall.—The total rainfall was 49·430 inches, 31·020 being the total for 1916. The maximum fall was recorded on the 28th March and measured 1·160 inches. This month was particularly wet, the total fall being 9·160 inches in 30 days. The number of days on which

rain fell during the year was 278 being 20 days more than in the previous year. The month of December was abnormally dry when only ·760 inches of rain fell.

Wind.—The mean force for the year was 2·2 which is equivalent to slightly over 14 miles per hour and is the normal figure. October was the windiest month. 14 calm days were recorded during the year as follows:—2 days in January, 3 in March, 1 in April, 3 in May, and 5 in June. There were the same number of calm days in 1916.

The direction of the wind during the year was as follows:—

E.	5 days.
S.E.	256 ,,
S.S.E.	62 ,,
E.S.E.	14 ,,
S.	14 ,,
Calm	14 ,,

VIII.—POSTAL, TELEGRAPH, AND TELEPHONE SERVICES.

(A.) Post Office.

Revenue.—The gross revenue from all sources amounted to £780 11*s.* 10*d.*, being a decrease of £5 11*s.* 6*d.* on that for 1916. Sale of stamps and postcards showed an increase of £64 0*s.* 8*d.*, due mainly to better sale to non-residents.

Expenditure.—Expenditure for the year amounted to £656 9*s.* 5*d.*, an increase of £384 4*s.* 2*d.*, due to the payment of £422 14*s.* 2*d.* to the General Post Office, London, for the sea carriage of mails for both 1915 and 1916.

Mail Matter.—There was a diminution of 62 mail bags and 1,937 parcels from, and 7 mail bags and 67 parcels to, the United Kingdom. A decrease of 20 mail bags and 53 parcels to, and 14 mail bags from, South Africa is also noted.

Money and Postal Orders.—Money orders for South Africa totalled £1,295 19*s.* 6*d.*, an increase of £642 18*s.* 11*d.*, whilst money and postal orders issued for the United Kingdom showed a decrease of £1,824 2*s.* 1*d.* Total transactions in these showed a net decrease of £2,679 for the year as compared with 1916.

(B.) Telegraphs.

Communication by the Eastern Telegraph Company's cables was maintained throughout the year, and no changes were made in the tariff charges. The Company's staff on 31st December numbered 25.

(C.) Telephones.

There were no changes in the administrative system, the cost of which is principally met by private subscription. Receipts for 1917 were £64 12*s.* 4*d.*, expenditure £79 1*s.* 9*d.*

IX.—GENERAL OBSERVATIONS.

(A.) New Zealand Flax.

No industry yet attempted in the Colony has succeeded so well as the production of fibre and tow from *Phormium tenax*. With good rainfall and on friable soil it thrives with little or no attention, and no insect pest or disease has yet appeared—ideal characteristics where absence of constant care and attention have to be contended with.

By the clearing of useless undergrowth much land can yet be made available for its cultivation, and it is hoped that planting both by the Government, and small proprietors will be much extended in the near future.

(B.) Roads.

The country roads suffer in proportion to the increase of the heavy flax traffic. Whereas in 1916 the actual weight of leaves, fibre, and tow in transit over the roads was 3,933 tons, in 1917 the weight amounted to 6,022 tons. Expenditure on these roads was therefore necessarily heavy, and amounted to £1,029, an average of £27 per mile for the existing 38 miles of metalled roads, besides which there are some 26 miles of minor tracks which require attention, being much used by pack animals. To help meet this necessary expenditure the export tax on fibre and tow was increased by Ordinance No. 3 of 1917, which came into force at the end of September; this increase of tax brought in £132 5*s.* 6*d.* by the end of the year, the whole of which was spent on the upkeep of the rural roads.

Roads and bridges in Jamestown were kept in order at an expenditure of £61 2*s.* 11*d.*

The amount collcted during the year under the Road Tax Ordinance was £58 4*s.*, being £4 7*s.* more than in 1916. The tax was paid by 388 persons, an increase of 29 on the previous year. There were 30 prosecutions during 1917 for non-payment of the tax.

(C.) Land Grants and General Value of Land.

Thirty-eight grants of land amounting to about 33 acres, were made by the Commissioners of Crown Property during the year for the purpose of flax planting.

No sales of land took place during the year. It cannot therefore be stated to what extent its value has appreciated beyond that hitherto estimated, viz.:—£5 to £10 per acre for fair to good pasture land. Land suitable for flax planting, even with fibre at pre-war prices, should fetch considerably more than this, whilst the amount of pasture land broken up for flax cultivation should give an increased value to that which remains pasture land.

(D.) Rate of Wages and Cost of Living.

The general rate of wages for the greater part of 1917 was 2*s.* a day for men and 1*s* 3*d.* a day for women. A general rise of 3*d.* per day was granted to government employées early in November on account of the rise in food prices, on the understanding that it would be discontinued when these prices resumed a more normal level.

The cost of living again increased during the year, as shown by the following retail prices of the staple articles of food which have been from time to time fixed by Proclamation since the beginning of the War:—

	1916 prices.	1917 prices.	Increase % over 1916.
Flour	3½*d.*	4*d.*	14·2
Rice	2¾*d.*	3½*d.*	27·2
Sugar	4½*d.*	4½*d.*	*nil.*
Bread	4½*d.*	5*d.*	11·1
Salt Beef	9½*d.*	1/4	68·4
Lard	1/2	1/8	42·8

Contract price of fresh meat rose from 11½*d.* to 1*s.* 1½*d.* per pound, and fish, the chief food of the poor, was scarce and expensive throughout the year.

(E.) Departments and Institutions.

Public Works Department.

The total expenditure for the year under "Works Recurrent," inclusive of personal charges, amounted to £2,454 11*s.* 1*d.* Of this amount no less than £1,029 10*s.* 1*d.* was spent on the rural roads. The sum of £631 16*s.* 2*d.* was expended on "Works Extraordinary," which included the completion of the water supply for the Half Tree Hollow and Laddow Hill districts.

(F.) Miscellaneous.

The interest and energy given to the fibre industry, and the fact that under war conditions the Colony has been able to ship practically the whole of its produce, has again been the pleasant feature of the year under review. The energy in this direction, however, has resulted in a gradual decline in the production of farm and dairy produce. Fresh milk is only obtainable in insufficient quantities, and at a high price, and locally made butter is generally unobtainable. This commodity, together with margarine, is now imported from South Africa in increasing quantities.

The inhabitants again suffered during the year from temporary shortages of foodstuffs of one sort or another. Old customs die hard, and importers, accustomed to a regular monthly service of steamers, could not bring themselves to import sufficient to tide over inevitable irregularities in that service. This recurring state of affairs culminated towards the end of October in a total absence of many essential foodstuffs for a period of about ten days. This however was looked upon as the fortune of war by the poorer classes, who bore it without grumbling, and it is pleasant to record the fact that there were no disturbances or demonstrations of any sort.

Owing to the restrictions on the export of foodstuffs from the United Kingdom early in the year importers turned their attention to South Africa with success. No difficulty was found in obtaining what was required from merchants in the Union, with the exception of rice, the export of which from the Union was prohibited in October. Arrangements were therefore made with the Mauritius Government, who volunteered to supply this Government, and its thanks and those of the inhabitants must be recorded for the facilities afforded by that Government.

During November instructions were received from the Secretary of State for the importation of six months supply of foodstuffs, and those importers who might finance this and who had not signified their intention of closing their business were approached, with a view to their obtaining the supply. They, however, would not undertake to do so. Arrangements were therefore made to obtain it on Government account, which has proved satisfactory to consumers generally.

W. Dixon,
Lt.-Colonel R.M.A., Acting Governor.

The Castle,
St. Helena,
July, 1918.

COLONIAL REPORTS, &c.

The following recent reports, &c., relating to His Majesty's Colonial Possessions have been issued, and may be obtained from the sources indicated on the title page:—

ANNUAL.

No.	Colony, &c.	Year.
943	Jamaica	1916–1917
944	Somaliland	,,
945	Swaziland	,,
946	Nigeria	1916
947	Basutoland	1916–1917
948	Gold Coast	1916
949	Ashanti	,,
950	Bechuanaland Protectorate	1916–1917
951	Barbados	,,
952	Leeward Islands	,,
953	St. Vincent	,,
954	Uganda	,,
955	Nyasaland	,,
956	Northern Territories of the Gold Coast	1916
957	British Honduras	,,
958	Gilbert and Ellice Islands	1916–1917
959	Cayman Islands	,,
960	Bermuda	1916
961	Mauritius	,,
962	Ashanti	1917
963	Falkland Islands	,,
964	Seychelles	,,
965	Weihaiwei	,,
966	Fiji	,,
967	Solomon Islands	1917–1918
968	Grenada	,,
969	Turks and Caicos Islands	1917
970	Northern Territories of the Gold Coast	,,
971	Ceylon	,,
972	Hong Kong	,,
973	Zanzibar	,,

MISCELLANEOUS.

No.	Colony, &c.	Subject.
79	Northern Nigeria	Mineral Survey, 1907–8 and 1908–9.
80	Nyasaland	Mineral Survey, 1908–9.
81	Southern Nigeria	Mineral Survey, 1908–9.
82	Imperial Institute	Rubber and Gutta-percha.
83	Southern Nigeria	Mineral Survey, 1910.
84	West Indies	Preservation of Ancient Monuments, &c.
85	Southern Nigeria	Mineral Survey, 1911.
86	Southern Nigeria	Mineral Survey, 1912.
87	Ceylon	Mineral Survey.
88	Imperial Institute	Oilseeds, Oils, &c.
89	Southern Nigeria	Mineral Survey, 1913.
90	St. Vincent	Roads and Land Settlement.

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No. 1010.

ST. HELENA.

REPORT FOR 1918.

(For Report for 1917 see No. 974.)

Presented to Parliament by Command of His Majesty.

November, 1919.

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No. 1010.

ST. HELENA.

ANNUAL REPORT FOR THE YEAR 1918.

I.—FINANCIAL.

(A.) Revenue.

The revenue collected during 1918, exclusive of a grant-in-aid of £8,000 received from the Imperial Exchequer, amounted to £7,639, being an increase of £530 on that collected in 1917, and £1,120 less than the estimated revenue for 1918. The Government Flax Mill Fund was to contribute a sum of £1,200 to the general revenue of the Colony. This sum, however, was not transferred by the Crown Agents during 1918 to the Colony's account; had it been so transferred the revenue collected would have exceeded the estimate by £80.

(B.) Expenditure.

The Colony's expenditure for all services during the year amounted to £12,548, or £491 less than the estimated expenditure, and a decrease of £3,418 on the expenditure for 1917.

Savings amounting to £1,190 were effected under eleven heads, some of these being due to savings on personal salaries, certain offices being vacant for the greater part of the year. On the other hand, expenditure over estimate amounting to £699 is shown under five heads, the principal of which, £610, was incurred under "Miscellaneous," due mainly to interest on overdrafts with the Crown Agents for purchase of foodstuffs, and expenses connected with the examination of the books of the Government Savings Bank by an official of the Colonial Audit Department.

(C). Comparison of Revenue and Expenditure.

It is interesting to note that the revenue collected, exclusive of Grants-in-Aid, during the years of war shows a gradual increase, whilst the coming of peace should show a substantial reduction in expenditure, and therefore the necessity of a smaller Grant-in-Aid.

Year.	Revenue. £	Grant-in-Aid. £	Expendjture. £
1914	8,060	8,300	15,884
1915	6,466	3,200	15,852
1916	6,947	13,678	18,244
1917	7,109	2,200	15,966
1918	7,639	8,000	12,548

(D.) Assets and Liabilities.

The Colony's liabilities on 31st December, 1918, exceeded its assets by £2,108, being an improvement of £3,091 as compared with the same date in 1917.

II.—TRADE, AGRICULTURE, AND INDUSTRIES.

(A.) Trade.

Revenue.

The Customs revenue for the year 1918 amounted to £3,896 11*s.* 7*d.*, or £232 5*s.* 3*d.* more than in 1917. A further graduated increase of

the export tax on fibre and tow under Ordinance No. 2 of 1918 came into force on 31st May. The total sum collected from this tax during the year amounted to £998 3*s.* 4*d.*, and another £318 would have been collected if tonnage had been available for an accumulation of fibre and tow towards the end of the year. In accordance with the terms of the Ordinance a sum of £355 from these proceeds was expended on the rural roads.

The chief decrease of Customs revenue, £313, is shown under Liquor Duties, less alcoholic liquor having been imported owing to high first cost.

Expenditure.

Customs expenditure for the year amounted to £360 9*s.* 10*d.*, as against £589 4*s.* 4*d.* in 1917. This decrease was due to savings under Personal Emoluments, and a largely reduced rebate of duty on liquor and tobacco consumed by the garrison.

Imports.

The total value of imports during the year was £49,487, being £1,814 less than in 1917, in which year, however, £4,000 specie was imported.

Increases in value appear under Beer (£628), Flour (£867), Machinery (£1,209), Oilmen's Stores (£1,902), Sugar (£1,674), and Tea (£383).

The principal decreases appear under Coal (£1,805), Drapery (£639), and Rice (£491), owing to smaller amounts imported.

Exports.

The total value of exports, namely £63,502, again exceeded that of imports, and shows an increase of £8,672 on the value for 1917. Although a smaller quantity of fibre and tow was exported than in 1917, the higher average price per ton obtained in London accounts for most of this increase. An increased export trade in potatoes might be promising if cool storage and reasonable freights were obtainable. Two crops are grown per year, maturing in June and December respectively. The latter could arrive in England at a time when good prices might be obtained, whilst a market could probably be found on the West Coast of Africa for both crops were communication available.

Government Food Supply.

As mentioned in the final paragraph of the Annual Report for 1917, the Government had to undertake the supply of essential foodstuffs to the inhabitants. With the ready help and assistance of the Government of the Union of South Africa, to whom the grateful thanks of the Colony are due, a full six months' supply, based on the imports during 1915-1917, of sugar, flour, tea, fats, salt, oats, and mealies arrived from South Africa towards the end of March. A further large consignment of the same supplies was obtained at the end of September. A weekly supply, requisitioned for by retailers, was issued on repayment every Friday, the amounts issued to each being as large as possible to meet their requirements and at the same time ensure the stocks lasting their prescribed period. Retail prices to consumers were permitted at a profit to the retailers similar to those allowed in England. This system, which continued into 1919, was satisfactory to, and eagerly made use of by, all retailers with the exception of those who hitherto had enjoyed the practical monopoly of food imports into the colony, but who had themselves refused to order large consignments.

(C587) 1/155. 1000 & 90. 11,19 B.&F.Ltd. G.11/2.

The total amount advanced by the Crown Agents during the year for foodstuffs obtained from Mauritius and South Africa was £19,165 8*s.* 7*d.* Receipts from sales to retailers to 31st December, 1918, amounted to £15,173 16*s.* 0*d.* whilst stocks in hand on that date were valued at £4,932 5*s.* 2*d.* As a result of this supply by Government retail prices were kept low and practically stationary, whilst with the exception of a few weeeks without rice owing to non transshipment at Durban of a consignment from Mauritius, supply to the inhabitants was plentiful and constant; in fact the amounts consumed have been considerably above the average of pre-War years.

(B.) AGRICULTURE, STOCK, FORESTS, AND GARDENS.

The year was a bad one from an agricultural point of view owing to want of rain. Dry early in the year, during August and September, when rain is most wanted for all crops, there was practically no rainfall. Forage and hay crops were therefore bad, and potatoes particularly so. Again the want of reliable seed of all kinds was badly felt, the usual sources of supply being closed by the War. Cattle and other stock suffered considerably from poor pasture and want of water. As a consequence the fresh milk supply was generally inadequate to meet the demand, and locally-made butter was almost unprocurable. The farming industry—if it can be called one—is on the wane, flax-growing being far more profitable with far less trouble.

It is much to be regretted that two or three owners of land on the ridges commenced considerable clearing of the indigenous ferns and vegetation growing there in order to plant flax. Setting aside the interest from a botanical point of view of this vegetation, its great importance due to its effect on the rainfall and water supply of the Island should never be overlooked, and great stress was laid on it by Sir D. Morris in a Report made by him in 1884.* The condition which the Island, its crops, and its population would be in with a much reduced rainfall needs no explanation, and it is to be hoped that no more clearing on the ridge lands will be carried out.

The sale of fruit from the Maldivia Garden amounted to £102 3*s.* 7*d.* as compared with £40 12*s.* in the previous year. After paying the gardener's wages this fund was utilised in partially clearing Government gardens of the destructive Blue Weed (*Ageratum*) which is very prolific and is spreading badly.

The Government pasture lands at Botley's Lay produced a revenue of £95 4*s.* 3*d.*, as against £88 5*s.* 7*d.* during 1917, and the balance in hand on 31st December, 1918 was £25 11*s.* 5*d.*

(C.) INDUSTRIES.

Fibre.—During the year this industry has been very profitable, the bulk of the fibre shipped to the United Kingdom having fetched the maximum controlled price of £97 per ton. Total shipments from the Colony amounted to 516 tons of fibre and 222 tons of tow, against 528 and 214 tons respectively during 1917. The total value of 1918 shipments was £61,136 against £53,113 for 1917. The position therefore of the flax grower and producer in St. Helena, where the wage standard is low, must compare very favourably with that in other countries where the wage standard is higher. Moreover, the exceedingly fortunate position of the Colony in getting practically the whole of this, its main product, shipped during a world-wide shortage of

*Colonial Report—Miscellaneous, No. 38.

tonnage, thus enabling the high prices to be obtained, shows that the Colony has rather benefitted than otherwise from the War. There were eight opportunities for shipment to the United Kingdom during the year.

Leaves and ginger stalks were purchased from 84 different growers as against 68 in 1917. Those who were wise enough to take up land and plant flax in years gone by have done well during 1917 and 1918. Owing to the great rise in freight and increase in Export Tax during 1918 larger deductions had to be made from the amount paid per ton for leaves to help meet these higher charges. The maximum paid by the Government Mill in 1917 was 92*s.* per ton, and for the greater part of 1918 88*s.* per ton was paid. In 1915 the maximum paid was 32*s.* 6*d.* per ton, and in 1916 50*s.* The result of these high prices, however, has been that growers have harvested their leaves in a too wholesale manner and as a rule far too young, the inevitable result being that shortage of supply was felt at various periods during the year, and it is probable that for long periods in 1919 no leaves at all will be forthcoming..

During 1918 a further 7 plots of Crown land, approximating to a total of 7 acres, were granted to small growers for the purpose of planting flax, and 99,000 suckers costing £162 were isssued for planting these plots and other plots granted during 1917. Planting by the Government was also carried out to the extent of 12¾ acres, viz., 1½ acres at Plantation, 2 acres round the outskirts of the drying field at the Mill, which had to be cleaned for the purpose, 1½ acres at Longwood New House, and 7¾ acres of a portion of Great Deadwood resumed for the purpose before renewal of the lease of the property to Messrs. Deason Brothers. Considerable clearing of weed and prickly pear was necessary before planting this last piece of ground, but the very great advantages of having plantations near the mill to save the cost of transport obviously make clearing well worth while. The long continued dry weather of 1918 was a great handicap to flax growth in general, and more especially to suckers planted during the year. It has been found that white ants will attack and destroy newly planted suckers unless the ground is sufficiently wet for them to start making root at once. White ants have also been found, in a few instances at Plantation, in clumps of matured flax when being harvested, but the leaves did not appear to have suffered—probably because they had not been long attacked.

The plant and machinery at the Government Mill worked satisfactorily and throughout the year 25 men were regularly employed at wages varying from 2*s.* 6*d.* to 4*s.* 6*d.* per day.

Ginger Fibre.—Late in 1917, when the shortage of flax leaves was foreseen, Mr. A. Hands, Government Chief Clerk, assisted by John H. Moyce, one of the Government Mill employees, developed the idea of obtaining fibre from the stalks of wild ginger (*Alpinia Nutans*) which grows abundantly and quickly in many parts of the Island and is a pest very difficult to eradicate. Under their superintendence certain modifications were made in the stripping machine, and the stalks were successfully milled for nine weeks in the early part of the year as an experiment, during a time when no flax was available. A total of 255½ tons of stalks were milled, producing only 3 tons 16 cwt. of fibre, and 7 tons 14 cwt. of tow. Although the former fetched £70 and the

latter £50 per ton in London, these were war prices, and in normal times it would certainly not pay for milling.

Private Mills.—Messrs. Solomon & Company's two mills and Messrs. Deason Brothers' mill were at work throughout the year. The former firm milled a total of 1,969 tons of leaves and exported 196½ tons of fibre and 63½ tons of tow, whilst Messrs. Deason Brothers milled 2,300 tons of leaves and exported 211½ tons of fibre and 76 tons of tow.

At the end of 1918 there were 183 males and 59 females exclusively employed in the flax industry at the four mills as against 175 males and 42 females at the end of 1917.

The estimated area of land under flax cultivation increased during the year from 900 acres to about 1,000 acres.

Lace Industry.—In view of the need for economy at the time, and the resignation through ill health of the Manageress, the Government Lace School was closed at the beginning of 1917 "for one year or more" during which time it was thought that a judgment might be formed as to the ability and willingness of women and girls to carry on the industry without the school's supervision and encouragement. The period that has since elapsed has not been helpful in forming such a judgment owing to various causes. With the presence of the War Garrison and Embodied Volunteer Force, a large Eastern Telegraph Company's Staff, and high prices of labour in the flax industry, there was considerably more money about than usual, and therefore there was not the inducement or necessity to turn to lace-making for a living. Added to this, the absence of female passengers in mail steamers and the reduced number of vessels calling at the Island reduced this outlet for local sales to a minimum, and such lace as was disposed of to members of the Garrison, etc., had to be made of inferior thread.

Certain facts, however, are self evident. Lace-making by the islanders will never progress without expert supervision by a non-permanent resident, neither will it become an industry of any lasting character and benefit to the Islanders without an outside market, which they cannot obtain for themselves. These wants are interdependent and point to the desirability of a supervisor, or teacher, closely connected with, or even employed by, a lace dealing business house. So conducted, the making of lace might give permanent employment at a fixed wage to the women and girls of the Island and at the same time be profitable as a business concern.

(D.) Shipping.

35 vessels with a total tonnage of 130,916 called at the port of Jamestown during the year, being 16 less than during 1917. These were of the following nationalities, viz. :—British 30, American 1, Russian 1, Norwegian 3.

The mail service was carried out by various war vessels and steamers as opportunity offered, 20 vessels bringing mails to the Colony from England or South Africa. Mails were despatched by 32 vessels. The vessels of the Union-Castle Company made 4 outward calls and 8 homeward calls, the normal number in peace time being one vessel each way per month.

In addition to the above, 34 vessels were sighted from the Island, but were not boarded. Sixteen vessels entered and cleared at the Customs during the year with cargo for the Island, shipping and discharging 5,023 tons as compared with 4,976 tons in 1917.

III.—EDUCATION.

There are eight elementary schools in the Island, three of these being Government Schools. In these the usual elementary subjects are taught, viz. :—The three R's, geography, map-drawing, history, composition, grammar, English, recitation, hygiene, and needlework.

Kindergarten exercises are taken with the infants. Exercises in physical drill are taken in all the schools.

Pupil Teachers.—During the year there were eight pupil teachers under instruction, 5 from Government Schools and 3 from other schools. These met weekly for instruction but during the last term of the course, i.e., October to December, the class was not held owing to the indisposition of the Acting Supervisor, who was granted three months' sick leave. Classes were resumed and the usual examination was held after the expiration of her leave.

The number of scholars on the rolls during the year was :-

	Boys.	Girls.	Total
Government Schools ..	154	191	345
Other Schools	183	156	339

The Acting Supervisor reports that the work of the different schools has progressed favourably through the year.

The numbers and attendances have been well maintained.

Prosecutions under the Education Ordinance numbered 11, a decrease of 13 on those during 1917.

IV.—GOVERNMENT INSTITUTIONS.

(A.) Hospital.

There were 164 admissions to the hospital during the year, 86 being males and 78 females, or an increase of 25 as compared with 1917. The daily average of patients was 7·8. There were 8 deaths in hospital, being a percentage of 4·8. The nursing staff was under strength for the greater part of the year, there being only two nurses up to the end of September, one of these being untrained. In that month a second qualified nurse, obtained by the Colonial Nursing Association, arrived. This shortness of staff was uncomplainingly met by the Lady Superintendent, Miss Hart, on whose shoulders a lot of extra work and responsibility fell. Out-patients numbered above 4,000.

(B.) Savings Bank.

The number of depositors on 31st December, 1918, was 142, as against 145 on 31st December, 1917.

The total sum deposited during the year amounted to £8,895 17*s.* 10*d.*, but of this sum £4,828 13*s.* was a deposit made by the Colonial Treasury, representing the total various embezzlements by the late bank manager over a period of years. The discovery of these necessitated expert investigation of the bank accounts which was carried out locally by Mr. H. E. C. Merrick, of the Colonial Audit Department, Sierra Leone. The late bank manager was subsequently convicted for these offences and sentenced to penal servitude.

Ordinary deposits during the year amounted therefore to £4,067 4*s.* 10*d.* which is a satisfactory increase of £1,340 2*s.* 10*d.* over those of 1917.

Withdrawals amounted to £2,166 8*s.* 7*d.*, an increase of £263 on those for 1917.

The amount standing to the credit of depositors on 31st December, 1918, was £16,666 16*s.* 6*d.*, whilst the expenditure of the bank, viz., £360 11*s.* 3*d.*, was £18 in excess of its revenue.

Mr. S. Cullen, acting manager, throughout the year had a difficult task in straightening the books of the bank, and credit is due to him for the large amount of extra work involved and the manner of its performance.

VI.—JUDICIAL STATISTICS.

(A.) Criminal.

Supreme Court.—There were no cases committed for trial before the Supreme Court during the year.

Police Court.—112 cases were dealt with by the Police Magistrate, of which 11 were dismissed—a decrease of 98 cases compared with 1917. Offences included 15 assaults and other offences against the person, 11 under the Education and 2 under the Road Tax Ordinances, 2 under Control of Prices, and 1 under Censorship Orders.

90 trivial cases were dealt with by the police without bringing them into Court.

There were 15 cases of flogging during the year, viz., 9 for petty thefts, 1 juvenile smoking, and 5 other offences.

(B.) Prisons.

Thirty-seven persons were committed to gaol during the year, an increase of one compared with 1917. The daily average number in gaol was 2·8.

The cost of maintaining the gaol was £101 17*s.*

(C.) Police Force.

There were no changes in the regular police force, which consists of one sergeant and four constables.

VII.—VITAL STATISTICS.

(A.) Population.

The estimated civil population on 31st December, 1918, was 3,654, an increase of 20 on that on the same date of 1917.

Emigrants numbered 79, and immigrants 23, compared with 54 and 38 respectively in 1916.

Civilian deaths numbered 36, or a rate of 9·85 per thousand, the lowest since 1909. Births numbered 112, or 30·65 per thousand, the highest for the last 10 years. Illegitimate children registered numbered 36 (not including 2 still-born), as against 28 in 1917. Of the deaths registered 9 were over 70, 3 over 80, and 1 of 92 years of age. 19 deaths occurred in Jamestown and 17 in the country districts.

Marriages in 1918 were 37, an increase of 4 over 1917.

(B.) Public Health.

The Acting Colonial Surgeon reports a slow but steady decline in the general health of the Colony as evidenced by mild epidemics of influenza, dysentery, and chicken pox, none of which, however, was serious. Cases of phthisis and tuberculosis were rare, and only one death was due to these diseases. Dental caries is very prevalent, and runs riot

as there is no dentist in the Colony. It is very largely responsible for the low stamina of the inhabitants and their inability to resist minor diseases. The Island has been fortunate in entirely escaping the universal and so-called Spanish influenza.

(C.) Sanitary.

There is nothing of interest to report from a sanitary point of view.

In the country districts the water supply was somewhat short towards the latter part of the year owing to the continued dry weather.

(D.) Climate.

Meteorological Station, Hutts gate.

Barometer.—The mean pressure for the year under report was 28·091, as against 28·104 in 1917.

Temperature.—The mean temperature was 61°·4 compared with 61°·5 for the previous year. 80°·9 was the absolute maximum and this was recorded on the 9th March; 84·0° was the maximum in the previous year. The lowest maximum, 71°·0, was recorded on the 2nd July. The absolute minimum, 50°·0 was registered on the 12th of August, compared with 50°·9 on the 5th September, 1917.

Rainfall.—The total rainfall of 40·13 inches was less than that of the preceding year by 9·30 inches, the total for 1917 having been 49·43 inches. The maximum fall, 1·72 inches, was registered on the 9th June 9 inches of rain fell in February. August, which is always looked upon as a wet month, was particularly dry and mild, only 0·59 of an inch was recorded, which covered a period of eleven days. The number of rainy days was 247, as against 278 in the year before.

Wind.—The mean force was 2·2 which is normal. November was windy, 4 calm days were recorded, 3 days in January and 1 in December. The direction of the wind for the year was :—

E.S.E.	.. ..	14 days.
E.	.. ..	3 ,,
S.E.	.. ..	238 ,,
S.S.E.	.. ..	103 ,,
S.	.. ..	3 ,,
Calm	.. ..	4 ,,

VIII.—POSTAL, TELEGRAPH, AND TELEPHONE SERVICES.

(A.) Post Office.

Revenue.—The gross revenue for the year from all sources amounted to £660 16*s.* 3*d.*, a decrease of £119 15*s.* 7*d.* as compared with 1917. Sales of stamps and postcards (£481) show a decrease of £211.

Expenditure.—Total expenditure amounted to £229 4*s.* 6*d.*, the lowest recorded for many years.

Money and Postal Orders.—Received and Issued were as follows :—To United Kingdom and Ascension, £2,351 5*s.* 3*d.*, a decrease of £496 13*s.* 1*d.*; from United Kingdom and Ascension, £1,191 10*s.*, an increase of £38; to South Africa, £2,114 13*s.* 9*d.*, an increase of £818 14*s.* 3*d.*; from South Africa, £315 4*s.* 6*d.*, an increase of £75 5*s.* 10*d.* Total transactions in these showed a net decrease of £377 compared with 1917.

(B.) Telegraphs.

Communication by the Eastern Telegraph Company's cables was maintained throughout the year, whilst no changes were made in the

tariff charges. The Company's staff has been permanently reduced and on 31st December numbered 13.

(C.) Telephones.

Receipts for 1918 were £85 5*s*. 10*d*. and expenditure £80, as against £64 12*s*. 4*d*. ; and £79 1*s*. 9*d*. respectively for 1917.

IX.—GENERAL OBSERVATIONS.

(A.) Roads.

The year, a very dry one, has been bad for country roads ; it is difficult to say if they deteriorate most in wet or dry weather. A total sum of £900 was expended on them during the year, of which sum £355 3*s*. 3*d*. was the proportion of the export tax on fibre and tow to be expended on rural roads. This total sum represents an average of under £24 per mile of road. An average weekly number of 27 men and women was maintained at roadwork and stone breaking throughout the year. A proportion of the men so employed worked in two gangs, each continuously under a volunteering non-commissioned officer from the garrison, a system which proved entirely successful and resulted in considerably more and better work being done. The distances that road metal has to be transported and the fact that it has all to be broken by hand makes road work a slow and laborious business, and without more transport and mechanical contrivances for stone breaking and rolling, the rural roads will continue to be destroyed by the heavy flax traffic.

Roads and bridges in Jamestown were kept in order at an expenditure of £67 11*s*. 5*d*.

The amount collected during the year under the Road Tax Ordinance was £58 10*s*., paid by 390 persons. There were two prosecutions for non-payment of the tax.

(B.) Land Grants and General Value of Land.

Seven plots of land about an acre apiece were granted by the Commissioners of Crown Property for flax-planting.

The Oakbank estate comprising the dwelling house and 40 acres of land, mostly pasture and wooded, changed hands during the year at a figure representing approximately £27 15*s*. per acre with the house.

Another freehold property in the west of the island of 69 acres of pasture land without buildings changed hands at slightly above £5 4*s*. per acre.

(C.) Rate of Wages and Cost of Living.

The rise of wages of 3*d*. per day to all labour employed by the Government granted towards the end of 1917 has remained in force throughout the year. It appears that the lead thus given to private employers of labour has not been followed in every case.

Owing to Government supply the cost of essential foodstuffs has remained practically stationary, prices throughout the year being as follows :—Flour, 4*d*. lb. ; bread, 5*d*. per 1½ lbs. ; sugar, 4*d*. to 5*d*. lb. ; rice, 3*d*. lb. and 3¾*d*. lb. for the latter half of the year ; lard, 1*s*. 9*d*. to 2*s*. lb. ; dripping, 1*s*. 4*d*. to 1*s*. 6*d*. lb. ; tea, 1*s*. 8*d*. and 2*s*. 2*d*. lb. ; salt, 1½*d*. lb.

Clothes, footwear, and other requirements of life have generally been of inferior quality and high price, rendering existence for the labouring man a difficult problem.

(D.) Departments and Institutions.

Public Works Department.

Total expenditure for the year under "Works Recurrent" amounted to £2,143 6*s*. 9*d*. No new constructional work was undertaken, neither could any much needed painting of woodwork, etc., of Government buildings be carried out owing to want of materials.

Public Market.

Early in the year the Board of Guardians decided to close the Public Market in Jamestown, the accounts showing a continually decreasing amount in hand at the end of each year. Any deficit would have had to be met by the ratepayers. From all but the sentimental point of view the step taken seemed a wise one since the market, as such, was of little use to anyone.

(E.) Miscellaneous.

With the close of the War and the probable withdrawal of the war garrison and disbandment of the local Volunteer Corps, the question of the employment of surplus labour will become an important one. The presence of a war garrison, though not affording much in the way of actual labour, has meant much to the poorer inhabitants in numerous ways, and also means a larger circulation of money, which benefits all. The disbandment of sixty odd embodied Volunteers will throw this number of able bodied and young men on to a labour market which in all probability will be unable to absorb them. Possibly when the flax industry is again in full swing, sometime in 1920, there will be more labour required, but with the exception of employment by the Eastern Telegraph Company at Ascension and in their Cable Ship, there is now no outlet for male labour, and none whatever for females. Up to 1913 the natural outlet, South Africa, was much taken advantage of by both sexes, and many females were taken and gave satisfaction as domestic servants. Now, however, the many who would emigrate have to wait for a chance to get away elsewhere, and such chances with the necessary certain employment in view, are extremly rare. With this lack of opportunity for emigration and an insufficiency of work in the Island for an increasing population, a still further lowering of the standard wage and consequent greater penury seems inevitable. In this connection it may be remarked that few who have left the Island in years gone by have returned as unfit for, or undesirable in, the employment to which they went.

The ravages of white ants still continue unchecked, and without expert study to discover some means for their destruction, they will continue. Little seems to be known by entomologists of the one species prevalent in the Island which, with its small area, would make an excellent centre for such study. It is feared that Government House at Plantation, if not already attacked, will shortly be so, as tree stumps fifty yards from the house have been found infested. In default of iron work, the use of white ant-proof wood is the only protection in buildings, but of this there is practically no supply in the Island, and the expense of its importation is a serious consideration.

W. Dixon,
Lt.-Colonel R.M.A., Acting Governor.

The Castle,
St. Helena,
19th June, 1919.

COLONIAL REPORTS, &c.

The following recent reports, &c., relating to His Majesty's Colonial Possessions have been issued, and may be obtained from the sources indicated on the title page :—

ANNUAL.

No.	Colony, &c.	Year.
977	St. Vincent	1917–1918
978	Bahamas	,,
979	Gambia	1917
980	Jamaica	1917–1918
981	Gibraltar	1917
982	Bermuda	,,
983	Swaziland	1917–1918
984	Trinidad	1917
985	Mauritius	,,
986	Cyprus	1917–1918
987	Bechuanaland Protectorate	,,
988	East Africa Protectorate	1916–1917
989	Barbados	1917–1918
990	Sierra Leone	1917
991	Straits Settlements	,,
992	Leeward Islands	1917–1918
993	Uganda	,,
994	British Honduras	1917
995	Gilbert and Ellice Islands	1917–1918
996	Nyasaland	,,
997	Basutoland	,,
998	Gold Coast	1917
999	Weihaiwei	1918
1000	Zanzibar	,,
1001	Hong Kong	,,
1002	Somaliland	1917–1918
1003	Cayman Islands	,,
1004	Malta	1918–1919
1005	Seychelles	1918
1006	Fiji	,,
1007	Ceylon	,,
1008	Nigeria	1917
1009	Turks and Caicos Islands	1918

MISCELLANEOUS.

No.	Colony, &c.	Subject.
79	Northern Nigeria	Mineral Survey, 1907–8 and 1908–9.
80	Nyasaland	Mineral Survey, 1908–9.
81	Southern Nigeria	Mineral Survey, 1908–9.
82	Imperial Institute	Rubber and Gutta-percha.
83	Southern Nigeria	Mineral Survey, 1910.
84	West Indies	Preservation of Ancient Monuments, &c.
85	Southern Nigeria	Mineral Survey, 1911.
86	Southern Nigeria	Mineral Survey, 1912.
87	Ceylon	Mineral Survey.
88	Imperial Institute	Oilseeds, Oils, &c.
89	Southern Nigeria	Mineral Survey, 1913.
90	St. Vincent	Roads and Land Settlement

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No. 1039.

ST. HELENA.

REPORT FOR 1919.

(For Report for 1918 see No. 1010.)

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August, 1920.

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No. 1039.

ST. HELENA.

ANNUAL REPORT FOR THE YEAR 1919.

I.—FINANCIAL.

(A.) Revenue.

The revenue for the year under review, exclusive of a grant-in-aid of £3,800, amounted to £8,369, being £730 more than the revenue collected during the previous year. This improvement was mainly due to increased Post Office receipts. The Government Flax Mill contributed a sum of £400 towards the general revenue of the Colony, being £100 more than in the preceding year.

(B.) Expenditure.

The expenditure during the year amounted to £11,432, being £1,115 less than the expenditure of the previous year, due chiefly to the disbandment of the local corps of "St. Helena Rifles" on 31st March, 1919.

(C.) Assets and Liabilities.

On the 31st December, 1919, the Colony's liabilities exceeded its assets by £1,365, which is an improvement of £743 on the figures of the previous year.

(D.) Currency.

Bills on the Crown Agents to the amount of £11,663 were issued during the year.

No specie was imported or exported, and the amount of coin and treasury notes in circulation is estimated at £12,000.

II.—TRADE, AGRICULTURE, AND INDUSTRIES.

(A.) Trade.

Revenue.

The Customs revenue for the year under report amounted to £2,838, as against £3,896 in the previous year, being a decrease of £1,058. This decrease is attributable to a variety of causes, the principal being the disbandment of the local volunteers, the withdrawal of the war garrison, and the temporary closing down of two flax mills. The unemployment thereby caused, together with the high cost of living, resulted in fewer imports. Further, as there was a large stock of food-stuffs on hand at the end of 1918, there were fewer importations in 1919. Large quantities of flax and tow remained unshipped at the end of the year owing to want of tonnage, thus considerably reducing the export duties that would otherwise have accrued to revenue.

Expenditure.

The expenditure for the year on Customs services amounted to £487, as compared with £360 in 1918. Refunds of export dues on fibre, and of duty on beer supplied to the garrison mainly account for the increase of £127.

Imports.

The total value of imports in 1919 amounted to £44,084, being £5,403 less than in 1918. Increases in value appear under drapery (£2,719), grain (£458), hardware (£530), leather (£545), and rice (£500).

The principal decreases appear under beer (£736), butter and margarine (£577), oilman's stores (£3,032), flour (£1,985), sugar (£1,797), machinery (£1,192). The last item is accounted for by the fact that two hydraulic presses, valued at £1,205, were imported in 1918.

Exports.

The value of exports during the year amounted to £30,878, as compared with £63,502 in 1918, showing a decrease of £32,624. This is due to a lesser quantity of fibre and tow having been shipped and to the fall in the market price of these two exports, as shown in the following figures :—

Fibre and Tow Exports.

1918	..	718 tons valued at	£61,136
1919	..	603 „ „ „	27,108
		giving a decrease of	£34,028

Exports of wool, and hides and skins show slight increases amounting to £1,209 and £227 respectively.

(B.) Agriculture, Stock, Forests, and Gardens.

The year under review was again a bad one from an agricultural point of view, climatic conditions being unfavourable. The summer was particularly dry and was followed by an abnormally cold and wet winter. Cattle suffered severely and large owners lost heavily. On the other hand forage crops were good. Potatoes, too, did well. About 3¼ tons of high class seed were imported by the Government for poor growers. Agriculture generally appears to have been more than ever neglected owing to the more lucrative and less troublesome occupation of flax-growing.

Forestry also appears to have been much neglected. This is the more to be regretted in view of the shortage of timber for building purposes and especially of white-ant resisting kinds.

Sales of fruit from the Maldivia Garden amounted to £61 13*s.* 10*d.*, against an expenditure of £47 19*s.* 2*d.*, which, after paying the gardener's wages, left a balance of £13 14*s.* 8*d.*

The Government pasture lands at "Botley's Lay" produced a revenue of £105 16*s.* 7*d.*, against an expenditure of £90 13*s.* 4*d.* A shed for the housing of sick cattle was erected and has proved a great boon to poor owners.

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(C.) Industries.

Fibre.—As anticipated in last year's report, the wholesale harvesting of short and immature leaves in order to take advantage of the high prices then obtaining led to a shortage of supply during the year under report. Consequently the Government Mill had to close down for six months of the year between April and November. The total number of working days amounted to only 74, during which 396½ tons of leaves were dealt with by the mill, producing 40¼ tons of fibre and 27 tons of tow. The average prices obtained on the London market were £40 15*s.* 0*d.* for fibre and £35 for tow, as compared with £97 and £71 respectively in 1918. During the months the mill was closed, the permanent hands were all continuously employed in clearing land and planting flax, about 19 acres of land being thus dealt with. A concrete floor was laid in the stripper shed, replacing the old wooden floor which was becoming dangerous to the workmen.

As a result of the year's working, the mill's surplus of assets over liabilities on the 31st December, 1919, amounted to £11,374 as compared with a surplus of £13,100 on the corresponding date in 1918, thus showing a decrease of £1,726 on the year's working. Prospects are, however, better for next year when there should be an abundance of mature leaves to keep the mill running throughout the year, whilst the additional clearing and planting carried out during the year under review will bring in a good return in future years and help to ensure a regular rotation of crops.

Private Mills.—One of Messrs. Solomon & Company's mills and Messrs. Deason Brother's mill worked continuously throughout the year, the former milling 1,757 tons of leaves and producing 190 tons of fibre and 45 tons of tow, and the latter milling 2,300 tons and producing 220 tons of fibre and 70 tons of tow. Messrs. Solomon & Company's mill employed 40 males and 7 females, whilst Messrs. Deason's mill employed 130 males and 50 females.

Lace.—The experience of the two years which have elapsed since the closing of the Government Lace School in 1917 has been sufficient to show that lace-making will never take its place as a permanent industry of the Island without expert supervision and organisation. There can be no doubt that the island girls possess an extraordinary aptitude for lace making and embroidery work of every description, and that the present standard of work produced, which still bears the impress of the Government Lace School, would compare favourably with the similar products of any country in the world. But without expert supervision the present high standard of work is bound to deteriorate and the number of skilled workers to diminish. Another not less important want is that of a local agent to act as a medium or connecting link between the island workers and the outside market. These two vital wants, namely, that of an expert supervisor and of a distributing agent would be ideally fulfilled by the appointment of an expert agent representing some business firm in South Africa or elsewhere. With careful supervision and organisation on business lines, lace-making in the Island might be developed so as to become a profitable industry.

(D.) Shipping.

The number of vessels calling at the island during the year under review was 28, being seven less than in 1918. All of these were of British nationality, except one French and one Norwegian. Their total tonnage was 89,548. The following war vessels visited the Colony :—H.M. Ships "Birmingham" and "Rinaldo," and H.M. Trawlers "Silesia" and "Nivonia."

In addition to the above 23 vessels called off the port to signal or to trade with the licensed boatmen. Twenty vessels entered and cleared at the port of Jamestown, shipping and discharging 3,648 tons, as compared with 5,023 tons in 1918.

The mail service was continued by the Union Castle Company, whose vessels made ten outward and nine homeward calls.

III.—EDUCATION.

There are eight elementary schools in the Island, of which three are Government Schools. Of the remainder three are supported by the Hussey Charity Fund, one by the Benevolent Society, and one by the Bishop of the Diocese assisted by an annual grant from the Colonial Government.

The number of children attending these schools during the year was :

	Boys.	Girls.	Total.
Government Schools ..	146	184	330
Other Schools	220	149	369

In addition to the usual elementary subjects, special attention is given to the following subjects in the higher standards :—Advanced arithmetic, history, geography, English composition, hygiene and needlework.

Examinations were held every quarter by the Acting Supervisor, and the results of the annual examination held in December show satisfactory progress.

The classes for pupil teachers held by the Acting Supervisor were regularly attended by young teachers both from Government and Church Schools. At the annual examination all candidates passed creditably, and four of the number gained positions in the 1st Class Division.

Attendance at all the schools was exceptionally good throughout the year, and there were no prosecutions under the Education Ordinance.

IV.—GOVERNMENT INSTITUTIONS.

(A.) Hospital.

There were 213 admissions to the hospital during the year, an increase of 49 as compared with 1918.

There were six deaths, a percentage of 2·8 as compared with eight deaths and a percentage of 4·8 in 1918.

Miss Hart, the Lady Superintendent, resigned towards the end of the year owing to failing health, after 14 years' devoted service in a position of exceptional difficulty and responsibility, and was succeeded by Miss Bennett.

(B.) Savings Bank.

On the 31st December of the year under review there were 163 depositors having accounts with the Government Savings Bank, as against 142 depositors in 1918.

Cash deposits in 1919 amounted to £3,094 3*s.* 7*d.* as against £8,895 17*s.* 10*d.* in 1918. This decrease may be accounted for by taking into consideration the sum of £4,828 13*s.* 0*d.*, a deposit made by the Colonial Government to meet the Homagee defalcations discovered in 1918. Deducting this amount from the total deposits it will be found that the deposits for 1919 are £973 0*s.* 5*d.* less than in 1918.

The repayments to depositors in 1919 amounted to £3,416 8*s.* 5*d.*, as against £2,166 8*s.* 7*d.* in 1918, an increase of £1,249 19*s.* 10*d.* This increase may be accounted for by the departure from the island of the war garrison and one or two substantial depositors. This also accounts for the decrease in cash deposits.

On 31st December, 1919, the sum of £16,680 7*s.* 3*d.* was standing in the Colonial Treasury to the credit of the depositors, as against £16,666 16*s.* 6*d.* in 1918. In view of the decrease in deposits and the increase of repayments the slight increase of £13 10*s.* 9*d.* does not call for any observations.

Stock to the value of £12,086 4*s.* 10*d.* cost price was invested on the 31st December, 1919—a slight increase of £4 4*s.* 0*d.* on the previous year.

V.—JUDICIAL STATISTICS.

(A.) Criminal.

Supreme Court.—Four cases were committed for trial before the Supreme Court during the year under review.

Police Court.—The Police Magistrate dealt with 76 cases as compared with 112 in the previous year—of this number 10 were prosecutions under the Drainage and Water Ordinances and one under the Spirit Licence Ordinance.

There were three cases of whipping during the year, all of which were for theft.

(B.) Prisons.

Twenty-six prisoners were committed to the gaol during the year, being 11 less than in the previous year. The daily average number in gaol was 3·6. The cost of maintaining the gaol was £170 8*s.* 0*d.*

VI.—VITAL STATISTICS.

(A.) Population.

The estimated civil population on the 31st December amounted to 3,468, being 6 less than in 1918.

Civilian emigrants numbered 198 and immigrants 33 as compared with 79 and 23 in 1918. The increase in emigrants is partly due to 68 men leaving, as labourers, for Ascension.

Amongst the civilian population, deaths amounted to 29 and births to 124, as against 33 deaths and 112 births in 1918. Illegitimate births registered numbered 34 or 2 less than in the previous year.

The death-rate was 7·94 per thousand, and the birth rate 33·98, being the lowest and highest respectively since 1909.

Marriages solemnised during the year numbered 27 as against 37 in 1918.

(B.) Public Health.

The general health of the Colony during the year has been remarkably good, taking into consideration the state of semi-starvation in which a large portion of the poorer classes live.

The want of a qualified dentist becomes more pressing every year. As the Colonial surgeon reports: "The state of the teeth and degree of oral sepsis found amongst the people of St. Helena, through years of neglect, is truly appalling, and is no doubt responsible for the large proportion of septic cases dealt with at the Civil Hospital. A great part of the Colonial surgeon's time in the out-patient department of the hospital is taken up with extracting teeth which in most cases could have been saved by the timely aid of a dentist." Hitherto all efforts to induce a qualified dentist to visit the Island have proved unsuccessful, mainly on the score of expense.

(C.) Sanitary.

Various matters of minor importance have been considered and dealt with by the Board of Health.

Slaughter-houses, stables, and mineral water factories have been effectually supervised.

The drainage system has worked satisfactorily and the water supply has proved good and sufficient.

There have been no prosecutions under the Public Health Ordinance during the year.

(D.) Climate.

Meteorological Station, Hutts Gate.

Barometer.—The mean pressure for the year was 28·095, 28·091 being the mean for the previous year.

Temperature.—The mean temperature was 61·2°, being practically the same (61·4°) in 1918. The absolute maximum temperature, 82·5°, was recorded on the 29th March, compared with 80·9° on the 9th March of the previous year. The lowest maximum, 68·1°, was registered on the 14th and 15th September.

50·5° was the absolute minimum reading and this was recorded on the 19th August, the 6th and 8th September, 50·9° being the lowest in the year before, recorded on the 5th September. The summer of the year under report was a particularly hot one, and the winter cold and wet.

Rainfall.—The total rainfall for the year was 41·560 inches, as against 40·130 inches in 1918. The maximum fall of 2·030 inches was recorded on the 11th July. July and September were very wet months; during the latter month rain fell every day. The number of rainy days for the year was 263, being 16 days more than in the previous year.

Wind.—The anemometer had to be dismantled for repair in September, consequently the readings for eight months only are available. The mean force for the period was 2·2, the mean force for the previous year being the same.

The direction of the wind for the eight months ending August was :—

S.S.W.	1 day.
E.S.E.	5 days.
E.	1 day.
S.E.	107 days.
S.S.E.	110 „
S.	9 „
Calm	10 „

VII.—POSTAL, TELEGRAPH, AND TELEPHONE SERVICES.

(A) Post Office.

Revenue.—The postal revenue for the year amounted to £1,655 16*s.* 6*d.*, being £995 0*s.* 3*d.* more than the receipts of the previous year. This increase is mainly due to a revival of the activities of stamp collectors and dealers. The sale of stamps to non-residents amounted to £1,298.

Expenditure.—The expenditure of the department amounted to £709 4*s.* 11*d.*, an increase of £480 0*s.* 5*d.* as compared with 1918. This represents charges for sea carriage of mails for the years 1917 and 1918, which were paid to the General Post Office, London, during the year under review.

The net income to the Colony from postal transactions was £946 11*s.* 7*d.*

Mail Matter,—The following figures show the amount of mail matter dealt with during the year, as compared with 1918.

From the United Kingdom and elsewhere.

	1918.	1919.
Bags of mails	202	180
Parcels	1,621	1,956
Registered articles	916	1,383
Insured letters	—	3

To the United Kingdom.

Bags of mails	79	83
Parcels	232	379
Registered articles ..	1,718	2,015
Insured letters	1	1

Money and Postal Orders. Transactions under this head were as follows :—

	1918.	1919.
To United Kingdom	£2,351	£2,222
To South Africa	2,114	5,630
From United Kingdom ..	1,396	1,916
From South Africa	315	161

Commission received on the above transactions amounted to £69 14*s*. 9*d*., as compared with £48 1*s*. 9*d*. in the previous year.

(B.) Telegraphs.

There was a slight reduction in tariff charges on telegrams to Great Britain and most of the European countries. The Eastern Telegraph Company's staff was further reduced during the year and numbered eleven on the 31st December.

(C.) Telephones.

Receipts for 1919 were £79 and expenditure £83, compared with £85 and £80 respectively for the previous year.

VIII.—GENERAL OBSERVATIONS.

(A.) Roads.

The amount spent on the maintenance and improvement of main roads was £848, out of which the export tax on fibre and tow contributed £301. Generally speaking, the roads are in a satisfactory condition, considering the difficult nature of the country, want of more expert supervision, and the absence of any mechanical contrivances for stone breaking and rolling, and the constant wear and tear caused by the heavy flax traffic.

In addition to the above a sum of £67 was expended in keeping the streets in Jamestown in a proper state of repair.

The amount collected during the year under the Road Tax Ordinance amounted to £60 19*s*. 0*d*., as compared with £58 10*s*. 0*d*. in the previous year.

There were no prosecutions for non-payment of the tax.

(B). Land Grants and General Value of Land.

Twelve grants of land, amounting to 11 acres, were made during the year for the purpose of flax planting.

The value of the land remains the same.

(C.) Rate of Wages and Cost of Living.

As will be seen by the following comparative table the cost of essential foodstuffs greatly increased during the year under review, and as there was no increase in the rate of wages it is difficult to understand how the labouring classes exist :—

	1918.	1919.
Flour	4*d*. per lb...	5*d*. per lb.
Bread	5*d*. per 1½ lb. loaf ..	5*d*. per loaf.
Sugar	4*d*. to 5*d*. per lb.	9½*d*. to 10*d*. per lb.
Dripping	1*s*. 4*d*. to 1*s*. 6*d*. per lb. ..	2*s*. 8*d*. per lb.
Tea	1*s*. 8*d*. to 2*s*. 2*d*. per lb. ..	2*s*. 4*d*. to 3*s*. per lb.
Salt	1½*d*. per lb.	2*d*. to 2½*d*. per lb.
Rice	3*d*. per lb...	4½*d*. per lb.

The cost of clothing, too, of an inferior quality, has increased, making the lot of the St. Helenian most unenviable.

(D.) Departments and Institutions.

Public Works Department.

The expenditure for the year under "Works Recurrent" amounted to £2,093 9*s*. 1*d*., of which £848 was spent on the rural roads. No special works were undertaken.

Under "Works Extraordinary" a sum of £227 10*s*. 11*d*. was expended, which included the relaying of a section of the water supply for the Ruperts Valley district and a special grant of £50 towards the Peace celebrations.

Poor Board.

The revenue of the Poor Board for the year amounted to £723 11*s*. 5*d*. and the expenditure £718 8*s*. 4*d*., as compared with £852 15*s*. 10*d*. and £480 4*s*. 5*d*., respectively, in the previous year.

Public Market.

During the year under report the Board of Guardians reopened the market, a new scale of dues having been sanctioned by the Governor-in-Council. The revenue for the year amounted to £17 8*s*. 7*d*. and the expenditure £5 9*s*. 6*d*.

(E.) Miscellaneous.

During the first nine months of the year under review the Government of the Colony was administered by Lieut.-Colonel Dixon, R.M.A., until my return to the Island in October.

From an economical point of view the year has been a trying one to all classes of the community, owing to the increasingly high cost of living. Under a system of recommendation certificates arranged with the Union Government Authorities, sufficient and regular supplies of the more essential foodstuffs have been obtained from South Africa, but the prices of these commodities, though lower than if they had been imported from the United Kingdom, were such as to make living almost impossible for the poorer classes, especially those in the town districts. To relieve the worst cases of distress in Jamestown a soup kitchen was opened, and this was followed in November by a Food Depôt which issued a weekly ration in kind to some 50 destitute persons in the Half-Tree Hollow district. Both these institutions were generously supported by voluntary contributions and have done much to relieve the prevailing distress. Such measures, however, can only be regarded as palliative, and nothing but increased local production is likely to reduce the present high cost of living. The high prices obtained for fibre have, not unnaturally, stimulated the planting of flax to an almost reckless degree, to the neglect of other forms of agriculture, with the result that the greater portion of the money brought into the Island by the flax industry goes out again to pay for costly imported foodstuffs, many of which or their substitutes could be produced locally. The shortage of rice, though regarded as little

short of a calamity by the poorer classes, may eventually prove to be a blessing in disguise by demonstrating that what has from long habit come to be regarded as an indispensable article of diet can be replaced by cheaper and more wholesome substitutes grown at their own doors. It is hoped that the efforts now being made to encourage increased production of foodstuffs and fodder will bear good fruit next year.

H. E. S. CORDEAUX,
Governor & Commander-in-Chief.

The Castle,
St. Helena,
18th May, 1920.

COLONIAL REPORTS, &c.

The following recent reports, &c., relating to His Majesty's Colonial Possessions have been issued, and may be obtained from the sources indicated on the title page:—

ANNUAL.

No	Colony, &c.	Year.
1005	Seychelles	1917–1918
1006	Fiji	„
1007	Ceylon	„
1008	Nigeria	„
1009	Turks and Caicos Islands	1917
1010	St. Helena	1918
1011	Northern Territories of the Gold Coast	„
1012	Ashanti	„
1013	East Africa Protectorate	„
1014	British Guiana	1917–1918
1015	Bechuanaland Protectorate	1918
1016	Basutoland	1918–1919
1017	Falkland Islands	„
1018	Trinidad	1918
1019	Bermuda	„
1020	Swaziland	„
1021	Somaliland	1917–1918
1022	Gibraltar	1918–1919
1023	Grenada	1918
1024	Jamaica	1918–1919
1025	Cyprus	„
1026	British Honduras	„
1027	British Solomon Islands	1918
1028	Straits Settlements	1918–1919
1029	Gold Coast	1918
1030	Nigeria	„
1031	Leeward Islands	„
1032	Sierra Leone	1918–1919
1033	Bahamas	1918
1034	Gambia	1918–1919
1035	Barbados	1918
1036	Mauritius	1918–1919
1037	St. Vincent	1918
1038	Gilbert and Ellice Islands	1918–1919
		„

MISCELLANEOUS.

No.	Colony, &c.	Subject.
80	Nyasaland	Mineral Survey, 1908–9.
81	Southern Nigeria	Mineral Survey, 1908–9.
82	Imperial Institute	Rubber and Gutta-percha.
83	Southern Nigeria	Mineral Survey, 1910.
84	West Indies	Preservation of Ancient Monuments, &c.
85	Southern Nigeria	Mineral Survey, 1911.
86	Southern Nigeria	Mineral Survey, 1912.
87	Ceylon	Mineral Survey.
88	Imperial Institute	Oilseeds, Oils, &c.
89	Southern Nigeria	Mineral Survey, 1913.
90	St. Vincent	Roads and Land Settlement.
91	East Africa Protectorate	Geology and Geography of the Northern Part of the Protectorate.

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No. 1084.

ST. HELENA.

REPORT FOR 1920.

(For Report for 1919 see No. 1039.)

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No. 1084.

ST. HELENA.

ANNUAL GENERAL REPORT FOR THE YEAR 1920.

I.—FINANCIAL.

(A) Revenue.

The revenue for the year, exclusive of a grant-in-aid of £2,900, amounted to £10,225 12*s.* 0*d.*, being £1,854 1*s.* 4*d.* more than in the previous year, and the largest amount collected since 1905. The increase was mainly due to a surplus over estimate on Customs owing to the arrival of two vessels carrying coal, which had to land their cargo here owing to fire.

Under "Miscellaneous Receipts" an increase of £910 15*s.* 0*d.* is accounted for by contributions from the Government Flax Mill and refund of passage money.

The revenue under the head of "Post Office" suffered, as was expected, in consequence of a decrease in the demand for stamps by philatelists.

(B) Expenditure.

The expenditure during the year amounted to £12,175 4*s.* 0*d.*, or £742 18*s.* 9*d.* more than the total for 1919. Public Works Extraordinary came to £814 5*s.*0*d.*, as compared with £227 10*s.*11*d.* in 1919. This excess was due to relief works taken in hand owing to post-war unemployment. The work done on the roads was, however, essential to their upkeep in any case.

(C) Assets and Liabilities.

On December 31st, 1920, the Colony's liabilities exceeded its assets by £422 3*s.* 5*d.*, an improvement of £948 8*s.* 0*d.* in the Colony's financial condition, due to the surplus in the year's working.

Under Assets the sum of £4,494 1*s.* 6*d.* still stands against the wreck "Papanui," on which the Colony pays interest at bank rate. This is unsatisfactory, but the question is under consideration, and it is hoped that some satisfactory arrangement will be arrived at for the removal of this persistent charge against the Colony's revenue.

(D) Currency.

Bills on the Crown Agents amounted to £16,574 11*s.* 3*d.* during the year. Imports of silver coin came to £500, and exports to £150.

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II.—TRADE, AGRICULTURE, AND INDUSTRIES.

(A) TRADE.

Revenue.

The Customs revenue for the year under report amounted to £4,424 16*s.* 2*d.*, as against £2,838 4*s.* 9*d.* in the previous year, giving a substantial increase of £1,586 11*s.* 5*d.* in 1920.

This increase is due, partly to more labour being employed by the reopening of two Flax Mills (Government and "Broad Bottom") which had been closed down in the previous year, and the arrival towards the end of the year of two vessels with fire in their cargoes of coal; resulting in the coal being landed, and paying duty at 1*s.* 3*d.* per registered ton. The revenue derived from these two vessels amounting to £506. It is satisfactory also to record that small increases occurred under every sub-head of Customs Revenue.

Expenditure.

The Customs expenditure for 1920 amounted to £644 15*s.* 7*d.*, as against £487 15*s.* 1*d.*, showing an increase of £157 0*s.* 6*d.* This is more than accounted for by the refund of export wharfage over-paid on fibre and tow shipped during 1920. This refund amounted to £214 0*s.* 2*d.* as against £48 12*s.* 7*d.* in 1919.

Imports.

The total value of imports in 1920 amounted to £67,441, as against £44,084 in 1919, being an increase of £23,357 in 1920. This large increase in value is not only due to larger imports, but also to the greatly increased first cost of several articles. Increases in value appear under almost every item, mainly as follows: Beef and pork (salt), £585; beer, £550; butter and margarine, £481; tobacco, etc., £555; flour, £6,393; grain, seed and oilcake, £2,634; oilman's stores, £5,434; sugar, £2,503; spirits, £660; and wine, £406.

The principal decreases appear under leather, £184; lubricating oil, £156; paraffin oil, £342; rice, £500; stationery, £519; and tea, £183.

Rice could not be imported during many months in 1920, and the large decrease in stationery is mainly due to the Eastern Telegraph Company's Station here having installed automatic instruments which use less paper.

Exports.

The value of exports during the year amounted to £41,857, as against £30,878 in 1919, showing an increase of £10,979. This is principally due to more than double the amount of tow being shipped in 1920 than in the previous year.

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Fibre and Tow Exports.

		£
1919:	603 tons valued at	27,108
1920:	838 tons valued at	38,795
	Giving an increase of	£11,687

In addition 117 coils of St. Helena rope were exported, valued at £391.

(B) AGRICULTURE, STOCK, FORESTS, AND GARDENS.

The year under review was an unsatisfactory one from an agricultural point of view. The summer was exceptionally dry, only just over half-an-inch of rain falling in the two months November and December, and the winter was cold and dry. Crops altogether could only be described as fair.

Small growers suffered severely. One ton, 18 cwt. of seed potatoes were imported for their benefit, but, owing to the high cost in England, growers were able to purchase them in small quantities only. It appears very difficult to get the small farmers interested in production, and land generally is not efficiently cleaned for crops. Endeavours have been made to stimulate tree-planting, and a large number of seeds have been collected and planted in many localities. Fruit culture has been neglected, and this cannot be considered surprising in view of the immense amount of damage done to all kinds of fruit by the Peach Fly, a satisfactory antidote for whose depredations is much required. 1920, in fact, has been a year of insects, potatoes suffering badly from worm, and vegetables from grubs and caterpillars. There is no doubt that a larger quantity of many agricultural productions could be grown, such as mealies, beans, coffee, &c., which would tend to lessen the dependence of the people on imported food, and greater attention might profitably be given also to the breeding of pigs. Everything possible is being done to promote production.

The sale of fruit from the Maldivia garden, inclusive of the balance in hand on 1st January, 1920, amounted to £87 4*s*. 7¼*d*., and the payments from this fund to £84 11*s*. 8½*d*.

The Government pasture lands at " Botley's Lay " produced a revenue of £80 8*s*. 1½*d*., against an expenditure of £75 9*s*. 4*d*.

The following average number of animals was maintained on the Lay in 1920:—

Sheep.	*Oxen.*
372	33

(C) INDUSTRIES.

Fibre.—The Government flax mill worked for 186 days during the year 1920, as compared with 74 in 1919, producing 95 tons of fibre and 55 tons of tow, as compared with 40¼ tons of fibre and 27 tons of tow in 1919.

The average prices obtained on the London market were £54 15*s*. 0*d*. per ton for fibre, and £36 15*s* 0*d*. for tow.

As may be seen from the comparative weights of fibre and tow, flax was still being cut much too young, and in spite of the satisfactory prices obtained the supply was even then so short that the mill was only able to be employed two or three days a week. This was most unsatisfactory, as it is impossible to make a profit, even with a good market, if labour costs are continuous and production intermittent. Freights also were extremely heavy, and will become prohibitive in the near future should any fall in the price obtainable for fibre take place.

As a result of the year's working, the mill's surplus of assets over liabilities on 31st December, 1920, amounted to £9,195 15*s*.11*d*. as compared with £11,374 12*s*. 10*d*. on the corresponding date of 1919. This shows an approximate decrease of £2,178 16*s*. 11*d*. This apparent loss in working is, however, largely accounted for by grants of £2,100 having been made to the Colonial Government from the mill during the year, viz., £400 towards the general revenue, £500 for relief works, and £1,200 to the general revenue ; this last named amount having been sanctioned for the year 1918, not paid in during that year, but brought to the credit of the Colony's account in 1920.

Private Mills.—Messrs. Solomons' mill at Sandy Bay ran for 302 working days and milled 1,312 tons of leaves, producing 155 tons of fibre and 90 tons of tow. Their mill at Broadbottom worked for 126 days and milled 486 tons of leaves, producing 52 tons of fibre and 30 tons of tow.

Messrs. Solomon employed 95 males and 7 females at their two mills, while Messrs. Deason employed 82 males and 28 females.

Messrs. Deason Brothers' mill at " Hutts Gate " ran for 311 days during the year and milled 1,740 tons of leaves, which produced 140 tons of fibre and 110 tons of tow.

Lace.—Shortly after the departure of Sir Harry Cordeaux, in June, Messrs. Solomon established a lace depôt in Jamestown, and at a later date a lady opened a lace stall there. In view of these efforts to conduct the industry by private enterprise, which were considered a step in the right direction, the Government Lace School has not reopened.

(D) Shipping.

The number of vessels calling at the Island during the year under review was 37, being nine more than in 1919. All of these were British, with the exception of three American, one Greek, and one Norwegian. The following war vessels visited the Colony: H.M. Ships " Lowestoft," " Birmingham," and " Dublin," also H.M. Tugs " St. Aubin " and " St Bees."

In addition, 26 vessels were sighted at the Station, of which number two traded with licensed traders.

Twenty-four vessels entered and cleared at the Port of Jamestown, shipping and discharging 7,426 tons, as compared with 3,648 tons in 1919.

The mail service was continued by the Union-Castle Company, whose vessels made 12 outward and 9 homeward calls.

III.—EDUCATION.

There are eight elementary schools in the island, of which three are Government schools.

The number of children attending these schools during 1920 was :—

	Boys.	*Girls.*	*Total.*
Government Schools	125	136	261
Other Schools	163	140	303

Attendance at all the schools was good throughout the year, and the Attendance Officer found no cases for prosecution under the Education Ordinance.

The manners of the children appeared exceptionally good, and they seemed to take great interest in their work. Classes for pupil teachers were held every week, and were well attended. At the termination of each quarter the usual examinations were held by the Acting Supervisor with satisfactory results.

The schools were also visited frequently by the Supervisor, who was satisfied with the progress made by the children. The health of the children was good throughout the year.

IV.—GOVERNMENT INSTITUTIONS.

(A) Hospital.

There were 201 admissions to the hospital during the year, a decrease of 12 as compared with 1919. There were six deaths, being a percentage of 3 as compared with 2·8 in 1919.

(B) Savings Bank.

On the 31st December, 1920, there were 141 depositors having accounts with the Government Savings Bank, as against 163 in 1919.

Cash deposits amounted to £1,273 12*s.* 1*d.*, as compared with £3,094 3*s.* 7*d.* in 1919. This decrease may be accounted for by the public placing their money in the National Bank of South

Africa, where they obtain a higher rate of interest. The repayments to depositors amounted to £7,302 1*s.* 8*d.*, as against £3,416 8*s.* 5*d.*, an increase of £3,885 13*s.* 3*d.* This increase is due to the departure from the island of several substantial depositors, and others having transferred their accounts to the National Bank of South Africa.

On the 31st December, 1920, the sum of £11,073 6*s.* 3*d.* was standing in the Colonial Treasury to the credit of depositors, as against £16,680 7*s.* 3*d.* in 1919, a decrease of £5,607 1*s.* 0*d.* Stock to the value of £12,082 0*s.* 10*d.*, cost price, was invested on the 31st December, 1920.

V.—JUDICIAL STATISTICS.

(A) CRIMINAL.

Supreme Court.—One case was tried in the Supreme Court during the year, as compared with four in 1919.

Police Court.—110 cases were dealt with in the Police Court, as compared with 76 in the previous year; most of these cases were for petty larceny, and 26 for non-payment of road tax.

No doubt thefts were caused to a very large extent by the very bad economic conditions prevalent during a great part of the year. The non-payment of road tax may be also traced to this cause. I hope to have a much more satisfactory account to render at the end of the present year.

£80 10*s.* was collected under Dog Tax, as compared with £70 10*s.* in the previous year. There were no prosecutions under this head, which rather goes to prove the opinion expressed above.

There were seven cases of whipping, five of them for theft.

(B) PRISONS.

Thirty-three persons were committed to the gaol during the year as compared with 26 in 1919, and 37 in 1918. The daily average number in gaol was 4·8 as compared with 3·6 in 1919.

The cost of maintaining the gaol was £240 15*s.* 3*d.*, which item, I hope, may show a considerable reduction in future.

VI.—VITAL STATISTICS

(A) POPULATION.

The estimated civil population on the 31st December amounted to 3,718, giving an increase of 70 more than at the similar date in 1919. (I would here note that in the Annual Report for 1919 the estimated population is shown as 3,468, whereas it should read 3,648.)

Civil emigrants in 1920 numbered 83 and immigrants 101, as against 198 and 33 in 1919. This reversal of figures in the two years is partly due to 68 men who returned from work at Ascension in 1920.

The number of deaths in the civilian population amounted to 33, and births 85, as against 29 deaths and 124 births in 1919.

Seventeen illegitimate births took place in 1920, as compared with 34 in 1919.

The civil death-rate in 1920 was 8·87 per 1,000, a slight increase over 1919 (7·94), and the birth-rate was 22·6, as against 33·98 in the previous year.

Marriages solemnized in 1920 numbered 17, as against 27 in 1919.

(B) Public Health.

The health of the population generally was good throughout the year.

A large number of the poorer inhabitants show distinct signs of malnutrition, the low rate of wages and high cost of living, owing to post-war conditions, are responsible for this.

The importance of a properly qualified dentist being sent here at an early date cannot be over estimated. The state of the teeth of the vast majority of the population is very bad indeed. I understand that half the time of the Colonial Surgeon and his assistant is occupied in making extractions.

(C) Sanitary.

The Board of Health have met monthly during the year and dealt with various questions as they have arisen.

A supply of properly covered sanitary refuse bins for the daily collection of street refuse is much needed, but materials for their construction are lacking here.

The drainage system has worked satisfactorily, with the exception of two occasions on which it was found blocked with rubbish. Greater vigilance to prevent this kind of nuisance should be exercised by the police.

(D) Climate.

Meteorological Station, Hutts Gate.

Barometer.—The mean pressure for the year was 28·108, as against 28·095 in 1919.

Temperature.—The mean temperature was 63·0 deg. (61·2 deg. in 1919). The absolute maximum temperature was 82·5 deg. on March 9th, the same as in 1919, on March 29th. The lowest minimum reading, 51·0 deg., was registered on July 14th and August 5th; 50·5 deg. being the absolute minimum on August 19th, September 6th and 8th, in 1919.

The seasons generally may be said to have been similar to those of 1919.

Rainfall.—The total rainfall measured at Hutts Gate was 35·240 in.; at Plantation 27·37 in., and in Jamestown 5·8 in. The maximum fall was 1·730 in. on March 28th. March was a particularly wet month, 7·410 in. falling. November and December were exceptionally dry months. The number of rainy days totalled 199 at Hutts Gate and 196 at Plantation.

Wind.—The mean force for the year was 2·0, which is equivalent to about 14 miles per hour. There were 28 calm days during the year, as compared with 10 in the previous year.

The following shows the direction of the wind :—

E.S.E.	.. ..	7 days
S.E.	.. ..	87 ,,
S.	.. ..	144 ,,
S.S.E.	.. ..	100 ,,
Calm	.. ..	28 ,,

The popular conception of the weather at St. Helena has suffered from the Napoleonic legend. It appears to be regarded by the general public as a place where heavy rains and high winds are practically constant. As a matter of fact the climate is probably unequalled in any country in the world. The temperature varies little over 20 deg. summer and winter, 80 to 60 deg. being the ordinary change. A great deal more rain is required in St. Helena than in England, owing to its draining off because of the precipitous nature of the country. Most of the rain, too (which last year in the most rainy district amounted to 35 inches), falls at night. There are many more days of blue sky and bright sun than at home, and many fewer real rainy days—a day and night in which 1/100th part of an inch of rain falls being registered as a rainy day in St. Helena. The average force of wind amounts to 14 miles an hour throughout the year, a very great deal less than in the average East Coast watering place in England. There are no extremes of heat and cold; no thunder and no lightning; no wild beasts and no snakes. Altogether it may be said that St. Helena forms an ideal climate within the British Empire, only a little over a fortnight's journey from England, for any invalid to recover his health, or for any business man to seek rest.

VII.—POSTAL, TELEGRAPH, AND TELEPHONE SERVICES.

(A) Post Office.

Revenue.—The postal revenue for the year amounted to £917 7*s.* 2*d.*, being a decrease of £738 9*s.* 4*d.* compared with the previous year (in 1918 revenue was £660 16*s.* 3*d.*), due principally to small orders from stamp collectors, viz., £417 16*s.* 10*d.* as compared with £1,298 17*s.* 7*d.* in 1919.

Expenditure.—The expenditure of the Department amounted to £502 13*s.* 5*d.*, a decrease of £20[illegible] 6*d.* as compared with 1919. This decrease is due to there having been no payment for sea carriage of mails for the year under review.

Mail matter.—The following shows the amount of mail matter dealt with in 1920 as compared with 1919 :—

From the United Kingdom and elsewhere.

	1919.	1920.
Bags of mails	180	185
Parcels	1956	1826
Registered articles	1383	1289

To the United Kingdom and elsewhere.

Bags of mails	83	99
Parcels	379	519
Registered articles	2015	2122
Insured letters	1	—

Money and Postal Orders.—Transactions under this head were as follows :—

	1919.	1920.
To the United Kingdom	£2,222	£1,330
To South Africa	5,630	1,190
From United Kingdom	1,916	744
From South Africa	161	408

Commission received on the above transactions amounted to £25 16*s.* 1*d.* as compared with £69 14*s.* 9*d.*

(B) Telegraphs.

The charges on telegrams to Great Britain and most of the European countries remained the same in 1920 as in the previous year. The Eastern Telegraph Company's Staff consisted of a Superintendent and 11 others.

(C) Telephones.

Receipts for 1920 were £103 19*s.* 3*d.*, and expenditure £81 17*s.*, as compared with receipts £79, and expenditure £83, in 1919.

VIII.—GENERAL OBSERVATIONS.

(A) Roads.

The amount spent on the repairs and maintenance of main roads came to £908 14*s.* 4*d.*, out of which the tax on fibre and tow contributed £341 5*s.* 1*d.*

I think the state of the roads generally may be considered fair, considering the small amount of money available for keeping them in order, and the hilly nature of the country. Efficient supervision of labour is badly needed, and the appointment of someone in the nature of a trustworthy ganger would be of immense benefit if funds were available for this purpose. In addition to the above sum £69 18*s.* was spent in keeping the streets in Jamestown in repair.

The amount collected under the Road Tax Ordinance was £84 7*s.*, as compared with £60 19*s.* in 1919. There were 26 prosecutions under this Ordinance during the year.

(B) Land Grants and General Value of Land.

Four grants of land, amounting to 3½ acres, were made during the year for the purpose of flax planting. The value of land remains the same.

(C) Rate of Wages and Cost of Living.

From the following comparative table it will be noticed that the cost of the more essential foodstuffs shows a slight rise over 1919, especially in the case of bread, tea, sugar, and rice, which may be looked upon as the staple articles of food for the working man here. Sugar at one time rose to the unprecedented price of 1*s.* 6*d.* per lb. Fish, which is much bought by the poor, in lieu of meat, was also scarce and dear in 1920.

These inflated prices became an almost impossible burden to the breadwinners in the year under review.

	1919	1920
Flour	5*d.* per lb.	4½*d.* per lb.
Bread	5*d.* per 1½lb.	7½*d.* ,,
Sugar	9½*d.*–10*d.* per lb.	1*s.* 3*d.* ,,
Dripping	2*s.* 8*d.* ,,	2*s.* 0*d.* ,,
Tea	2*s.* 4*d.*–3*s.* ,,	3*s.* 2*d.* ,,
Salt	2*d.* ,,	2*d.* ,,
Rice	4½*d.* ,,	5*d.*–5½*d.* ,,

I am very glad to say that there is every prospect of these prices becoming more normal in 1921.

The cost of clothing during the year was also abnormal, many people went barefoot who had never done so before.

Rate of Wages.—Towards the end of the year two vessels landed cargoes of coals on fire at Jamestown. This proved a veritable godsend to many of the labouring classes there, and employment on unloading coal at fairly good wages was provided for them for some two or three months.

It is the case that in the normal course of events much unemployment is chronic in the Island.

Having regard to the fact that there is no provision for old age and infirmity outside the Poor House in this Colony I should like to mention the work of the Redgate Food Depôt in aid of the aged poor, which is supported by voluntary contributions and worked by a small committee of whom Mrs. Peel is President. During the year,58 old men and women—principally women—have been given a ration of food every Friday; this food is probably of great assistance to many almost starving families over the end of the week.

Special thanks are due to the subscribers to this most deserving institution.

Such temporary measures of relief as can be provided here are, after all, only palliative, and must be regarded as such.

I am glad to say that more interest is now being taken in producing foodstuffs in gardens, which will all tend to make the labourers more self-supporting.

(D) Departments and Institutions.

The expenditure for the year under "Works Recurrent" amounted to £2445 7*s.* 5*d.*, of which £908 14*s.* 4*d.* was spent on rural roads, together with a grant from the Government Flax Mill of £500 to relieve distress, which was similarly expended.

Poor Board.

The revenue of the Poor Board for the year amounted to £824 6*s.* 9*d.*, and the expenditure to £837 18*s.* 7*d.*, as compared with £723 11*s.* 5*d.* and £718 8*s.* 4*d.* respectively in the previous year.

Public Market.

The Market continued under the supervision of the Board of Guardians. The revenue amounted to £18 7*s.* 2*d.*, and the expenditure to £16 18*s.* 3*d.* during the year.

(E) Miscellaneous.

In June of the year under review Major H. E. S. Cordeaux, C.B., C.M.G., left the Colony, having been appointed Governor of the Bahamas. On his departure Major H. G. St. G. Morgan administered the Government until my arrival in November.

Mr. J. J. Phillips, Crown Prosecutor and Police Magistrate, was transferred to St. Kitts, and left the Colony in November, the duties of Crown Prosecutor being carried on temporarily by the Colonial Treasurer and Chief Clerk.

Dr. W. J. J. Arnold, Colonial Surgeon, who had been granted special leave for service during the European War, returned to St. Helena in May.

The year was, from an economic standpoint, similar to the previous one with regard to the high cost of living, the main essential foods, imported chiefly from South Africa, being very expensive, and making the task of supporting their families extremely difficult for the poorer classes.

From an agricultural point of view, also, seasons were unsatisfactory. Crops were not good, especially potatoes, on which the people are now beginning to rely owing to post-war conditions.

ROBERT F. PELL,
Governor and Commander-in-Chief.

The Castle,
St Helena,
29th June, 1921.

The following recent reports, etc., relating to His Majesty's Colonial Possessions have been issued, and may be obtained from the sources indicated on the title page :—

ANNUAL.

No.	*Colony, etc.*	*Year.*
1049	Ceylon	1919
1050	Gibraltar	1919–1920
1051	Somaliland	,,
1052	Zanzibar	1919
1053	Gambia	,,
1054	Uganda	1918–1919
1055	Malta	1919–1920
1056	Swaziland	,,
1057	Bechuanaland Protectorate	,,
1058	Ashanti	1919
1059	Bahamas	1919–1920
1060	British Solomon Islands	,,
1061	Seychelles	,,
1062	Mauritius	,,
1063	St. Vincent	April-December 1919
1064	Nigeria	1919
1065	Sierra Leone	,,
1066	Gold Coast	,,
1067	Jamaica	1919–1920
1068	British Guiana	1919
1069	Trinidad and Tobago	,,
1070	British Honduras	,,
1071	Hong Kong	,,
1072	Barbados	1919–1920
1073	East Africa Protectorate	1918–1919
1074	Leeward Islands	1919–1920
1075	Nyasaland	,,
1076	Falkland Islands	1919
1077	Bermuda	1920
1078	Grenada	,,
1079	Uganda	1919–1920
1080	Fiji	1920
1081	Gibraltar	,,
1082	Northern Territory of the Gold Coast	1919
1083	Bechuanaland	1920–1921

MISCELLANEOUS.

No.	*Colony, etc.*	*Subject.*
82	Imperial Institute	Rubber and Gutta-percha.
83	Southern Nigeria	Mineral Survey, 1910.
84	West Indies	Preservation of Ancient Monuments, etc.
85	Southern Nigeria	Mineral Survey, 1911.
86	Southern Nigeria	Mineral Survey, 1912.
87	Ceylon	Mineral Survey.
88	Imperial Institute	Oilseeds, Oils, etc.
89	Southern Nigeria	Mineral Survey, 1913.
90	St. Vincent	Roads and Land Settlement.
91	East Africa Protectorate	Geology and Geography of the northern part of the Protectorate.
92	Colonies—General	Fishes of the Colonies.

COLONIAL REPORTS—ANNUAL.

No. 1129.

ST. HELENA.

REPORT FOR 1921.

(For Report for 1920 see No. 1084.)

LONDON:
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No. 1129.

ST. HELENA.

ANNUAL GENERAL REPORT FOR THE YEAR 1921.

I.—FINANCIAL.

(A) Revenue.

The revenue for the year, including a Grant-in-Aid of £3,200, amounted to £10,229, or £2,894 less than the sum received in 1920, being £1,009 under the estimate for the year.

The drop is, however, considerably accounted for in that during 1920 the Government Flax Mill made contributions to the general revenue of £2,100 on account of refund of passage money and other items, whereas in 1921 its contribution was £400.

Customs revenue was down £1,175, owing to bad trade; Post Office receipts by £196.

(B) Expenditure.

The expenditure for the year amounted to £11,178, or £418 less than the figure for 1920.

The expenditure sanctioned was £12,212. Increases in expenditure amounted to £724, the principal item being £606 under the head "Miscellaneous," due to interest paid to the Crown Agents for the Colonies on overdrafts; the rate of interest being very high in the year under report.

Decreases in expenditure occurred under twelve heads, the principal being £255 under Customs, and £206 under Works Extraordinary.

(C) Assets and Liabilities.

On 31st December, 1921, the Colony's liabilities exceeded its assets by £1,950, an increase of indebtedness of £1,528, as compared with 1920, due to the deficit on the year's working.

(D) Currency.

Bills on the Crown Agents amounted to £12,689 during the year. No imports or exports of coin took place in 1921. Coin in circulation may be put at £11,500; this sum includes British Treasury and Bank of England notes to the value of £2,500.

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II.—TRADE, AGRICULTURE, AND INDUSTRIES.

(A) Trade.

Revenue.

The Customs revenue for the year under report amounted to £3,249 13*s*. 7*d*., as against £4,424 16*s*. 2*d*. in the previous year; showing a decrease of £1,175 2*s*. 7*d*.

This decrease is due to a general stagnation in trade brought about by lack of employment, due to some extent to post-war conditions, reduction of the Garrison, and withdrawal of deportees; and to the fact that merchants had large stocks in hand at the end of 1920, thereby reducing imports in 1921.

The principal sub-heads under which the decrease in revenue noted above took place, are Import Duties, £412 15*s*., due to the working classes not having the necessary money to indulge in dutiable luxuries, the selling price of which continued high, and Export Wharfage, £550 3*s*. 5*d*., due to only 448 tons of fibre and tow being exported in 1921, as against 838 tons in 1920. Also, in consequence of the London market price in 1921 being under £50 and £25 per ton for fibre and tow respectively, only 10*s*. and 5*s*. per ton tax was levied, as against 20*s*. and 15*s*. per ton in 1920.

Expenditure.

The Customs Expenditure for 1921 amounted to £390 5*s*. 4*d*., as against £644 15*s*. 7*d*. in 1920, showing a decrease of £254 10*s*. 3*d*. In 1920 a refund of £214 0*s*. 2*d*. was made on Export Wharfage Dues overpaid on fibre and tow exported, which did not occur in 1921, and personal emoluments in 1920 were £371 0*s*. 2*d*., as against £358 13*s*. in 1921, hence a saving under both sub-heads.

Imports.

The total value of imports in 1921 amounted to £44,647, as against £67,441 in 1920, showing a decrease of £22,794. This is not only due to less imports, but to the falling cost of materials during the year. Decreases in value appear under almost every item, mainly as follows:—Boats, £805; Coal, £1,543; Drapery, £2,093 Flour, £6,469; Grain, Seed, and Oilcake, £2,981; Foodstuffs, £2,218; Oilman's Stores, £1,203; Sugar, £2,730; and Spirits, £625.

The only large increase is £340 (for Aloe Fibre Mill, and instruments and machinery for the Eastern Telegraph Company); Paraffin Oil, £480; and Rice, £2,672.

During 1920, rice could not be imported for many months.

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Exports.

The value of exports during the year amounted to £14,334, as against £41,857 in 1920, showing a large decrease of £27,523, which is practically all due to the value of fibre and tow exported in 1920 being £38,797, as against £11,984 in 1921. No wool was exported in the year under review, as against £574 in the previous year.

Increase under export occurs in St. Helena rope of £685 for 1921, as compared with £391 in 1920, and potatoes £319.

(B) Agriculture, Stock, Forests, and Gardens.

The year under review may be regarded as a satisfactory one from an agricultural point of view. The rainfall was sufficient, and well distributed throughout the months when it is most needed for farming operations.

Potatoes and sweet potatoes were plentiful, and prices dropped considerably. This was no doubt of great benefit to the poorer classes, particularly to the people living in Jamestown.

Owing to the abnormal cost, it was impossible to import seed potatoes, as small growers could not have afforded to buy. The lack of markets for their produce acts as a deterrent to the poorer classes taking full advantage of the capabilities of production. More vegetables are, however, grown in cottage gardens than was the case when I came here, and every endeavour is made to induce the people to become more self-supporting. Thanks are due to Messrs. Deason, Solomon, and Thorpe for planting seeds of various trees. In the instances where these seeds have been protected, the results have been most satisfactory; but it is considered that planting, owing to the depredations of animals—principally goats—is useless unless it is done thoroughly, which means much expense. It would be of undoubted benefit to St. Helena to have more plantations of young trees. Fruit is generally unsatisfactory, owing to the depredations of grubs and the general lack of attention to the trees on the part of their owners.

The sale of fruit from Maldivia Garden amounted to £84 14*s*. 9*d*., and the expenditure, including £11 6*s*. 10*d*. on tree planting, to £83 9*s*. 6*d*., showing, with the balance brought forward a small balance in hand at the end of the year of £5 6*s*. 4*d*. The Government pasture lands at "Botley's Lay" produced a revenue of £81 10*s*. 3*d*., against an expenditure of £75 5*s*. 10d. The balance standing to the credit of this fund now amounts to £26 15*s*. 6*d*.

The average number of animals maintained on the Lay in 1921 was 277 sheep, 34 oxen, and 10 asses.

(C) Industries.

Fibre.—The Government Flax Mill worked for 159 days during the year, as compared with 186 in 1920, producing 76 tons of fibre, and 38½ tons of tow.

The average prices obtained on the London market were £33 a ton for fibre, and £17 a ton for tow, as compared with £54 15*s*. for fibre, and £36 for tow, in 1920.

The year under review was an extremely difficult one for the flax industry. Not only was there an abrupt fall in value from £54 a ton in November, 1920, to £28 a ton offered for the following shipment, but for many months it was impossible to dispose of fibre at any price, and shipments were not advised by the agents. I am glad to say that, after considerable correspondence with the Union-Castle Shipping Company, freights were somewhat reduced during the later months of the year, and had this not been done the flax industry as regards St. Helena would have become a dead letter.

Private Mills.—Messrs. Solomon's mill at Sandy Bay ran for 293 working days, and produced 110 tons of fibre and 38 tons of tow. Their mill at Broadbottom worked for 96 days, and produced 21 tons of fibre and 22 tons of tow. This mill was closed early in the year.

Messrs. Deason's mill at Hutts Gate ran for 308 days during the year, and produced 93 tons of fibre and 78 tons of tow.

Messrs. Solomon employed 90 males and six females at their two mills, some for only part of the year, while Messrs. Deason employed 50 males and 23 females at their mill, a total of 169 persons employed directly in the industry in the private mills in 1921, as compared with 212 in 1920. The Government mill had 25 employees in both years.

Rope.—Captain Mainwaring employed 20 men and boys in rope making in 1921, and produced 12 tons of rope, of an approximate value of £700. It is much to be hoped that this infant industry may have a successful career before it.

Lace.—The lace industry is now managed by private enterprise, and I hear quite satisfactory accounts of its progress.

(D) Shipping.

The number of vessels calling at this island during the year under review was 26, being 11 less than in the previous year. All of these were British, with the exception of one French and one Swedish. H.M.S. "Dublin" visited the Colony in September.

The total number of vessels sighted at the station was 42, being 12 less than in 1920, of which number two traded with licensed traders.

Nineteen vessels entered and cleared at the Port of Jamestown, shipping and discharging 7,544 tons, as compared with 7,426 in 1920. This, however, includes 4,433 tons of coal from vessels in distress, as compared with 2,273 tons in 1920.

The mail service was continued by the Union-Castle Company.

III.—EDUCATION.

There are eight elementary schools in the Island, of which three are Government schools.

During the year a general census was made, which showed the numbers attending to be—

Government schools	236
Other schools	376
	612

as compared with 564 in 1920. The average attendance at all the schools was exceptionally high, and the health of the children good throughout the year.

The Superintendent visited the schools regularly, examining the children at the end of each quarter, and also more fully at the end of the year. He was satisfied with the progress made, and also with the general conduct and tone of the schools.

Eight pupil-teachers attended the weekly classes, of whom two obtained first-class, and four second-class certificates in the examination at the end of the year. The important change in the schools was the separation of the boys and girls in the two town schools. As this did not take place till late in the year, it is early yet to report results. Much, however, is expected in the way of improved discipline, attendance, and moral benefit, and so far these expectations have been entirely fulfilled.

IV.—GOVERNMENT INSTITUTIONS.

(A) Hospital.

There were 197 admissions to the hospital during the year, a decrease of four as compared with 1920.

There were five deaths, representing a mortality of 2·5 per cent. of the total admissions, as compared with six, or 3 per cent., in 1920, and 2·8 in 1919.

(B) Savings Bank.

On the 31st December, 1921, there were 107 depositors having accounts with the Government Savings Bank, as against 141 in 1920.

Cash deposits amounted to £602 13*s.* 3*d.*, as compared with £1,273 12*s.* 1*d.* in 1920. This decrease is accounted for by the public placing their money in the National Bank of South Africa, where they obtained a higher rate of interest. It is surprising in a way that, in view of this, there should have been any deposits during the year in the Government Savings Bank. It may be explained by the idea that many have here that banks may come and go, but the Government is stabilised. Repayment to depositors amounted to £5,448 12*s.* 5*d.*, as against £7,302 1*s.* 8*d.* in 1920.

On 31st December, 1921, the sum of £6,578 4*s*. 8*d*. was standing to the credit of depositors in the Government Savings Bank.

Stock to the value of £12,082 0*s*. 10*d*., cost price, was invested on the 31st December, 1921.

V.—JUDICIAL STATISTICS.

(A) Criminal.

Supreme Court.—No cases were brought before the Supreme Court during the year, as compared with one in 1920, and four in 1919.

Police Court.—Seventy cases were dealt with in the Police Court, as compared with 110 in the previous year; 29 of these were for non-payment of road tax.

Dog Tax.—£82 10*s*. was collected under Dog Tax, as compared with £80 10*s*. in 1920. There were no prosecutions under this head.

(B) Prisons.

Thirty persons were committed to the gaol during the year, as compared with 33 in 1920. The daily average number in gaol was 1·4, as compared with 4·8 in the previous year.

The cost of maintaining the gaol was £126 16*s*. 5*d*., as compared with £240 15*s*. 3*d*. in the previous year, duly carrying out the forecast I ventured to make in the last annual report.

VI.—VITAL STATISTICS.

(A) Population.

The estimated civil population on the 31st December, 1921, amounted to 3,670, being a decrease of six on the actual population, 3,676, on 31st December, 1920, which was ascertainable by the Census.

Civil emigrants in 1921 numbered 144 (including labourers to Ascension), and immigrants 67, as against 83 emigrants and 101 immigrants in 1920.

The number of deaths during the year was 24, and civil births 93. There were also two births in the Garrison. Twenty-three illegitimate births took place in 1921.

The death-rate in 1921 was 6·5 per 1,000, as compared with 8·87 in 1920; I think I can venture to say the lowest recorded death-rate in the Island, or probably in any other Colony.

The civil birth-rate for 1921 was 25·3 per 1,000, as against 22·6 in 1920.

There were 20 marriages solemnized during 1921, as compared with 17 in 1920.

(B) Public Health.

The general health of the community continued to be satisfactory.

The infant (*i.e.* under one year) mortality constituted a record, viz., 10·4 per thousand births; only one infant died in 1921 as compared with seven in 1920, or a rate of 82·3 per thousand births in that year. Legislation came into force this year forbidding the insurance of children under five years old.

A mild form of influenza prevailed in the month of September; large numbers were affected but no deaths occurred. Two cases of diphtheria occurred during the year in different parts of the Island, but no connection could be traced between them.

(C) Sanitary.

The Board of Health met eight times during the year. No matter calling for special remark came to notice.

(D) Climate.

Meteorological Station, Hutts Gate.

Barometer.—The mean pressure for the year was 28·123, slightly higher than the mean pressure for the previous year, which was 28·108.

Temperature.—The mean temperature was 62·9 (63·0 in 1920). The absolute maximum was recorded on 26th February, and read 83·6, which is the highest since the present observer has been in charge of the station (24 years), the highest temperature in 1920 being 82·5 on 9th March. The absolute minimum temperature was 51·6, registered on 8th September, as against 51·0 recorded on 14th July and 5th August in the previous year.

Rainfall.—The total rainfall measured at Hutts Gate was 40·50 in., at Plantation 46·17, and in Jamestown 15·05. The maximum fall, 1·72 in., was recorded on 28th March, 1920. June and July were particularly wet months, and the last four months of the year were very dry. The number of rainy days totalled 162 at Hutts Gate and 205 at Plantation.

Wind.—The mean force for the year was 2·0, the same as in 1920; there were, however, two more calm days in 1921.

The direction for the year was as follows:—

E.	2	days.
E.S.E.	6	,,
S.E.	166	,,
S.	36	,,
S.S.E.	125	,,
Calm	30	,,

From the above report it may be noted that the weather in St. Helena is apparently getting more and more equable. There is

a tendency to record more calm days annually—a few years ago about eight was usual, this year the number is thirty. There are many days which could be classified as calm, but a calm day, meteorologically speaking, is when the wind is really west, but is so slight as not to be recorded by the anemometer; on these days rain is not unusual.

VII.—POSTAL, TELEGRAPH, AND TELEPHONE SERVICES.

(A) Post Office.

Revenue.—The Postal Revenue for the year amounted to £741 15*s.* 2*d.* as compared with £917 7*s.* 2*d.* in the previous year, showing a decrease of £175 12*s.* 0*d.* due principally to small orders from stamp dealers, viz., £326 18*s.* 5*d.*, as compared with £417 16*s.* 10*d.* in 1920.

Expenditure.—The expenditure of the Department amounted to £417 18*s.* 7*d.*, a decrease of £84 14*s.* 10*d.* as compared with 1920. This decrease is due principally to the claim from the General Post Office for sea carriage of mails not being presented for payment.

(B) Telegraphs.

The charges on telegrams remained the same as in the previous year, and the Staff of the Eastern Telegraph Company was as in 1920.

(C) Telephones.

Receipts for 1921 were £97 13*s.* 11*d.* and expenditure £93 10*s.* 7*d.*, as compared with £103 19*s.* 3*d.* and £81 17*s.* 0*d.* in 1920.

VIII.—GENERAL OBSERVATIONS.

(A) Roads.

The amount spent on the repair and maintenance of rural roads came to £940 10s. 11d., out of which the tax on fibre and tow contributed £190 12s. 7d.

The sum available for the repair of the roads, of which we endeavour to keep in order some 60 miles, is quite inadequate. The hilly nature of the country, together with a heavy rainfall and wear caused by flax donkeys, makes constant repair necessary. On the present sum patching is practically all that can be done, regular repairs, which are much needed, being out of the question. A thoroughly good road foreman is also a necessity which has to be dispensed with.

The amount collected under the Road Tax Ordinance was £68 5*s.* 0*d.*, as compared with £84 7*s.* 0*d.* in 1920. The decrease is due to men going to Ascension for employment. There were 29 prosecutions under this Ordinance.

(B) Land Grants.

1,254 acres of Crown Waste Land at "Prosperous Bay Plain" were leased to Mr. T. R. Sales for the purpose of cotton growing. The general value of land remains unaltered.

(C) Rate of Wages and Cost of Living.

The following comparative table shows that the cost of living dropped considerably during 1921. On 64 articles of common household consumption the net decrease during the year may be put at 41·54 per cent., that is to say that, while in 1920 the figure was 176·08 per cent. over that of the pre-war period, in 1921 it was 134·54 per cent. over. Fish was plentiful during 1921.

	1920.	1921.
Flour	4½*d.* per lb. ...	4½*d.*
Bread	7½*d.* per 1½ lb. ...	5½*d.*
Sugar	1/3 per lb. ...	10*d.*
Dripping	2/- ,, ,, ...	1/2
Tea	3/2 ,, ,, ...	2/-
Salt	2*d.* ,, ,, ...	2*d.*
Rice ...	5*d.* to 5½*d.* ,, ,, ...	4*d.*

The cost of clothing also remained abnormally high.

Rate of Wages.—The same as in 1920, namely, 2*s.* to 2*s.* 6*d.* daily.

Much unemployment is chronic on the Island. With a death-rate of 6·5 per 1,000, and a birth-rate of 25 per 1,000, it is obvious that this must be so until some stable outside source of occupation or some new Island industry be found. It is none the less distressing.

The Red Gate Food Depot continued its good work in relieving the distress of very old people by providing a weekly ration to 67 persons on Fridays. I am glad to say that this very deserving and necessary charity has been generally well supported.

During the course of 1921, I also restarted the Soup Kitchen in Jamestown, which has been of very great benefit, principally to underfed or semi-starved school children. A daily meal is provided for these at 3 p.m.

My most sincere thanks are due to subscribers to both these institutions.

(D) Departments and Institutions.

The expenditure during the year under "Works Recurrent" amounted to £2,444 1*s.* 11*d.*, of which £940 10*s.* 11*d.* was spent on rural roads. This is less by £500 than the expenditure for 1920, but the saving, both from the point of view of repairs and employment, is really not satisfactory.

Poor Board.

The Revenue of the Poor Board for the year amounted to £964 10*s.* 0*d.*, and the expenditure to £969 14*s.* 6*d.*, as compared with £824 6*s.* 8*d.* and £837 18*s.* 7*d.* in 1920.

Public Market.

The Revenue amounted to £21 11*s*. 5*d*., and the expenditure to £15 3*s*. 5*d*. The Market continued under the supervision of the Board of Guardians.

(E) Miscellaneous.

Dr. F. de C. Keogh was appointed Assistant Colonial Surgeon, and arrived in the Colony in November.

From an economic standpoint the cost of living showed a considerable reduction from that prevalent in 1920. On the other hand, owing to a very heavy fall in the price of fibre, wages showed a tendency to drop, while unemployment increased. Under these circumstances the opportunity to send 45 men to Ascension for work under the Admiralty in September was particularly welcome.

From an agricultural point of view seasons were good, and crops all round satisfactory.

The Boy Scout movement was revived, and the different troops now number about 60 members; Girl Guides were also inaugurated. Both these bodies are now provided with uniforms, and it is hoped that the training they get will be of advantage to them in later life.

R. F. PEEL,
Governor and Commander-in-Chief.

The Castle,
St. Helena,
26*th June*, 1922.

COLONIAL REPORTS, ETC.

The following recent reports, etc., relating to His Majesty's Colonial Possessions have been issued, and may be obtained from the sources indicated on the title page :—

ANNUAL.

No.	*Colony, etc.*	*Year.*
1093	Cyprus	1920
1094	St. Vincent	,,
1095	Bahamas	1920–1921
1096	Nyasaland	1920
1097	Weihaiwei	,,
1098	Nigeria	,,
1099	New Hebrides	,,
1100	Somaliland	,,
1101	Straits Settlements	,,
1102	Swaziland	1920–1921
1103	Trinidad and Tobago	1920
1104	Turks and Caicos Islands	,,
1105	Northern Territories of the Gold Coast	,,
1106	Seychelles	,,
1107	Ashanti	,,
1108	Hongkong	,,
1109	British Guiana	,,
1110	British Honduras	,,
1111	Malta	1920–1921
1112	Uganda	1920
1113	Leeward Islands	1920–1921
1114	Nigeria	1921
1115	Mauritius	1920
1116	Jamaica	1921
1117	Cyprus	,,
1118	Weihaiwei	,,
1119	Gold Coast	1920
1120	Gambia	,,
1121	Gambia	1921
1122	Kenya Colony and Protectorate	,,
1123	British Guiana	,,
1124	Grenada	,,
1125	Zanzibar	,,
1126	Northern Territories of the Gold Coast	,,
1127	Gibraltar	,,

MISCELLANEOUS.

No.	*Colony, etc.*	*Subject.*
83	Southern Nigeria	Mineral Survey, 1910.
84	West Indies	Preservation of Ancient Monuments, etc.
85	Southern Nigeria	Mineral Survey, 1911.
86	Southern Nigeria	Mineral Survey, 1912.
87	Ceylon	Mineral Survey.
88	Imperial Institute	Oil-seeds, Oils, etc.
89	Southern Nigeria	Mineral Survey, 1913.
90	St. Vincent	Roads and Land Settlement.
91	East Africa Protectorate	Geology and Geography of the northern part of the Protectorate.
92	Colonies—General	Fishes of the Colonies.
93	Pitcairn Island	Visit by the High Commissioner for the Western Pacific.

COLONIAL REPORTS—ANNUAL.

No. 1164.

ST. HELENA.

REPORT FOR 1922.

(For Report for 1921 see No. 1129.)

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1923.

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No. 1164.

ST. HELENA.

ANNUAL GENERAL REPORT FOR THE YEAR 1922

I.—FINANCIAL.

(A) REVENUE.

The revenue for the year, including a Grant-in-Aid of £3,000, amounted to £16,282 7*s*. 8*d*., being £6,053 more than the sum received in 1921, a net increase of £4,221 7*s*. 8*d*. over the estimate for the year, and the largest amount collected since 1902, the last year of the South African War, when large numbers of Boer prisoners, with the troops needed to guard them, were quartered in the Colony. The increase is, however, almost entirely due to Post Office receipts in connection with the new issue of stamps for St. Helena and Ascension, otherwise the revenue would have remained practically stationary.

(B) EXPENDITURE.

The expenditure amounted to £11,621 7*s*. 8*d*., showing a saving of £254 11*s*. 3*d*. on the estimate.

Increases of expenditure occurred under six heads, and amounted to £191 2*s*. 7*d*.; while decreases occurred under nine, showing a total of £445 13*s*. 10*d*., the principal being £207 17*s*. under Legal, owing to the non-appointment of a Law Officer and Crown Prosecutor.

(C) ASSETS AND LIABILITIES.

Under a new form of accounting desired by the Treasury, the deficit stated in the Annual Report for 1921 as being £1,950 was increased to £7,030 9*s*. 7*d*.; this was reduced owing to the year's working to £1,290 11*s*. 9*d*. on 31st December, 1922.

(D) CURRENCY.

Bills on the Crown Agents amounted to £7,051 13*s*. 7*d*. during the year.

Specie to the value of £2,277 was exported to South Africa during the year. This was in silver coin and in connection with the closing of the local branch of the National Bank of South Africa. The amount of currency in the Colony is sufficient for local requirements. There were no imports of coin during the year under report.

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II.—TRADE, AGRICULTURE, AND INDUSTRIES.

(A) TRADE.

Revenue.

The Customs Revenue for the year 1922 amounted to £3,096 7*s*. 11*d*., as against £3,249 13*s*. 7*d*. in the previous year; showing a decrease of £1,153 5*s*. 8*d*.

The Revenue for 1921 under the sub-heads "Wharfage" and "Tonnage Dues" was inflated to the extent of £850 by dues collected from colliers in distress, so it will be observed that the revenue for 1922 shows a healthier aspect generally. An increase of £199 0*s*. 1*d*. occurs under "Import Duties," and £109 7*s*. 11*d*. under "Special War Dues," also £96 18*s*. 6*d*. under "Export Wharfage" due to 688 tons of fibre and tow being exported as against 448 tons in 1921.

A decrease of £408 8*s*. 11*d*. under "Wharfage Dues" and £122 5*s*. 6*d*. under "Tonnage Dues" is more than accounted for by the above-mentioned inflation in 1921.

Expenditure.

The Customs Expenditure for 1922 amounted to £370 14*s*. 5*d*., as against £390 5*s*. 4*d*. in 1921, showing a decrease of £19 10*s*. 11*d*., due mainly to personal emoluments in 1922 being £344 7*s*. 6*d*., as against £358 13*s*. in 1921.

Imports.

The total value of imports in 1922 amounted to £44,636, as against £44,647 in 1921, giving a decrease of £11. This does not mean that the quantities imported were less than in 1921, but that prices had fallen considerably, so reducing values. Increases in value during the year appear under Beef and Pork, £273; Boats, £230; Chemicals, Drugs, etc., £389; Drapery and Dry Goods, £2,278; Hardware, Metals, etc., £243; Foodstuffs (other than enumerated), £891; Spirits, £237; Stationery, £1,010 (large importations by Eastern Telegraph Company); and Sugar, £962.

The principal decreases appear under Animals, £379; Flour, £2,365; Grain, Seed, and Oilcake, £300; Machinery, £1,358; and Wines, £222. These decreases, except Machinery, are mainly due to falling prices.

Exports.

The total value of exports amounted to £24,418, as against £14,344 in 1921, showing an increase of £10,074. This is due to about one-third more fibre and tow being exported than in the previous year, viz. :—

(11215) Wt. 10653/611 500 8/23 Harrow G75/2 B

1921—448 tons valued at	...	...			
1922—688 ,, ,, ,,	...	...	£		
Increase	...	...	£		

About 2½ tons of Aloe fibre and tow were exported [illegible] the year, valued at £88, and approximately 18 tons of [illegible]lena rope, valued at £820. Specie to the amount of [illegible] was exported in 1922, and wool valued at £721, as a[illegible] in the previous year.

(B) AGRICULTURE, STOCK, FORESTS, AND GARDI

The year under review may be considered general[illegible] satisfactory to agriculturists. The rainfall was su[illegible] well distributed.

Potatoes and sweet potatoes were plentiful, an[illegible]ce [illegible]e-mained low.

Maldivia Garden.—Sale of fruit from " Maldivi[illegible] amounted to £77 3*s.* 7*d.*; the balance of this fund stands a[illegible] 14*s.* 11*d.* at the end of the year. Besides paying the ga[illegible]r's wages, various small sums are expended from this fun[illegible] the benefit of Government gardens generally: for insta[illegible], £7 10*s.* for guano, £3 14*s.* 4*d.* for arsenate of lead and su[illegible]gar for the destruction of Peach Fly by spraying, and £3 for the purchase of syringes for the same purpose. The experiment has been generally successful where the directions have been carefully complied with, and might with advantage be extended.

The Government pasture lands at " Botley's Lay " produced a revenue of £79 18*s.* 11*d.*, as against an expenditure of £74 3*s.* 4*d.* The balance standing to the credit of this account now amounts to £32 11*s.* 1*d.* Expenditure may have to be incurred in the near future for improving the water supply there, which is indifferent.

(C) INDUSTRIES.

Fibre.—The Government Flax Mill worked for 254 days during the year, as compared with 159 in 1921, producing 130 tons of fibre and 48½ tons of tow, as against 76 tons of fibre and 38½ tons of tow in the previous year.

The average price obtained on the London market was £29 7*s.* a ton for fibre, and £20 11*s.* for tow, as compared with £33 and £17 respectively in 1921. Though prices were a little below those of 1921, the market in London was rather steadier which made " selling to arrive " the rule rather than the exception. This difference is of considerable importance with regard to the net price realised for shipments as it does away with the possible heavy cost of storage in England before sale.

Private Mills.—Messrs. Solomon's mill at "Sandy Bay" ran throughout the year, and produced 120 tons of fibre and 42 tons of tow. Their mill at "Broadbottom" was closed.

Messrs. Deason produced 236 tons of fibre and 93 tons of tow at "Hutts Gate." Messrs. Solomon employed 36 men and seven women at their mill, and Messrs. Deason 80 men and 30 women.

Rope.—Captain Mainwaring employed 18 men and boys rope-making, and produced 18 tons of rope of an approximate value of £820.

(D) SHIPPING.

The number of vessels calling at St. Helena during the year was 31, being five more than in the previous year. All of these were British, with the exception of one Danish training ship.

The total number of vessels sighted at the station was 47, as compared with 42 in 1921.

Twenty-eight vessels entered and cleared at the Port of Jamestown, their total net tonnage being 128,604 as compared with 87,708 in 1921.

The mail service was more regular than during the previous year.

III.—EDUCATION.

There are eight elementary schools in the Island, of which three are Government schools.

The numbers attending may be taken at :—

Government schools	249
Other schools	324
	573

as compared with 612 in 1921. The average attendance at all schools is excellent, and the Attendance Officer had no cases to bring forward during the year.

The Superintendent visited the schools regularly, and examined the children at the end of each quarter; he reports that he was well satisfied with the work done and the evidence of progress made. The Governor, who is Chairman of the Board of Education, frequently visited the schools at uncertain intervals, and always found a good attendance and much interest shown by the children in their lessons. The children appear to like going to school, and appreciate being there. The pupil teacher class has been very successful. The Superintendent reports: "It is an encouraging class, for each of these junior teachers is keen to improve, and so all take pains with the work given to them to do." The rearrangement with regard to the town schools referred to in the last report has now been in operation long enough for it to have been found to work admirably, and both schools are doing good work.

It would be of advantage if needlework could be taught in the Girls' School, and a grant of £10 a year is needed for material. It would be a similar advantage to the boys if some arrangement could be made for those in the senior classes to be allowed to assist in the Public Works Department, especially in the carpenter's shop, for a few hours a week, and this could be done without additional expense.

IV.—GOVERNMENT INSTITUTIONS.

(A) HOSPITAL.

There were 174 admissions to the hospital during the year as compared with 197 in 1921.

There were four deaths, representing a mortality of 2·2 per cent. on the number of admissions as against 2·5 per cent. in 1921, 3·0 in 1920, and 2·8 in 1919.

(B) SAVINGS BANK.

On the 31st December, 1922, there were 148 depositors having accounts with the Government Savings Bank as against 107 on the same date in 1921, and 141 in 1920.

Cash deposits amounted to £4,190 14*s*. 11*d*. as against £602 13*s*. 3*d*. in the year before. This increase is principally due to the closing of the local branch of the National Bank of South Africa.

Repayments to depositors in 1922 amounted to £1,719 5*s*. 1*d*. as compared with £5,448 12*s*. 5*d*. in 1921.

Stock to the value of £9,205, actual value, was invested on Savings Bank account on 31st December, 1922.

V.—JUDICIAL STATISTICS.

(A) CRIMINAL.

Supreme Court.—No case has been brought before the Supreme Court during the year under review.

Police Court.—Eighty-eight cases were dealt with in the Police Court as compared with 70 in the previous year. There were 52 convictions as compared with 62, a decrease of ten.

Dog Tax.—£80 10*s*. was collected under Dog Tax as compared with £82 10*s*. in 1921, and £80 10*s*. in 1920.

(B) PRISONS.

Twenty-eight persons were committed to gaol or placed on remand during the year as compared with 30 in 1921. The daily average number in gaol was 1·3 as compared with 1·4 in 1921, and 4·8 in 1920.

There was no sickness among the prisoners during the year. The cost of maintaining the gaol was £108 5*s*. 2*d*. as compared with £126 16*s*. 5*d*. in 1921, and £240 15*s*. 3*d*. in 1920.

VI.—VITAL STATISTICS.

(A) POPULATION.

The estimated civil population on the 31st December, 1922, amounted to 3,658, showing a decrease of 12 below that of 1921. Civil emigrants in 1922 numbered 174, and immigrants 102, as against 144 and 67 respectively in the previous year. The number of deaths during the year was 37 as compared with 24 in 1921; of these 12 were under the age of one year. Births registered numbered 97 as compared with 93. Twenty-nine illegitimate births took place. The death-rate in 1922 was 9·87 per 1,000 as compared with the exceptionally low rate of 6·5 the previous year—this may be taken as working back to the average of about 8·5 per 1,000.

The birth-rate was 25·88 per 1,000 as compared with 25·3 in the previous year.

Marriages in 1922 numbered 20, the same figure as that for 1921.

(B) PUBLIC HEALTH.

The general health of the community continued to be satisfactory.

Influenza of a mild type prevailed in the months of January and February to a moderate extent.

A case of measles, complicated by appendicitis, was landed from a mail steamer in January and taken to the hospital, and a severe case of diphtheria occurred in Jamestown in March, but no further cases followed in either instance. A medical examination of all the Island children was carried out during the year.

The town school children showed a lower state of nutrition than those in country schools, and a larger number of cases of defective cleanliness, though even in Jamestown the latter were not numerous.

The proportion of children showing defective teeth would compare most favourably with similar children in England. The vast majority of the younger children showed excellent teeth.

Cases of enlarged tonsils and adenoids were conspicuous by their absence. A single case of ear disease was discovered.

(C) SANITARY.

The Board of Health met monthly, and matters of a minor nature were dealt with. There were no prosecutions under the Public Health Ordinance during the year.

(D) CLIMATE.

Meteorological Station, Hutts Gate.

Barometer.—The mean pressure for the year was 28·107 as compared with 28·123 in 1921, and 28·108 in 1920.

Temperature.—The mean temperature was 61·1° (62·9° in 1921). The absolute maximum, 81·6°, was recorded on 18th February, 83·6°, on 26th February, being the maximum for the year before. The absolute minimum temperature was 50·5°, recorded on the 6th July.

Rainfall.—The total rainfall measured at Hutts Gate was 42·83 in., at Plantation 37·12 in., and in Jamestown 7·55 in.

The maximum fall was recorded on 19th May, and read 1·06 inches. 5·14 in. fell in February and 5·15 in August; during the latter month rain was recorded on 29 days. The number of rainy days totalled 204 at Hutts Gate and 236 at Plantation.

Wind.—The mean force for the year was 2·4. There were 11 calm days. The direction for the year was as follows:—

E.	6 days.
E.S.E.	35 ,,
S.E	245 ,,
S.S.E.	68 ,,
Calm	11 ,,

Generally speaking the year was a wet one; the rains, however, were well distributed.

VII.—POSTAL, TELEGRAPH, AND TELEPHONE SERVICES.

(A) POST OFFICE.

Revenue.—The Postal Revenue for the year amounted to £7,286 8*s*. 7*d*. as compared with £741 15*s*. 2*d*. in 1921, or an increase of £6,524 13*s*. 5*d*., due to large sales of the new issue of stamps.

Expenditure.—The expenditure of the Department amounted to £1,067 10*s*. 1*d*., an increase of £649 11*s*. 6*d*. over expenditure in 1921, which was principally due to a charge of £526 18*s*. 9*d*. for printing new stamps, and a charge of £249 15*s*. 4*d*. for sea carriage of mails as compared with £128 16*s*. 3*d*. in the previous year.

Money and Postal Orders.—Transactions under this head were as follows:—

	1921.	1922.
To the United Kingdom and South Africa	£1,587	£6,378
From the United Kingdom and South Africa	£1,357	£1,788

Commission received on the above transactions during the year amounted to £71 7*s*. 5*d*. as compared with £20 9*s*. 9*d*. in 1921 and £25 16*s*. 1*d*. in 1920.

(B) TELEGRAPHS.

There were no changes in the Telegraph tariff during the year. The Easter Telegraph Company's staff consisted of a Superintendent and 6 other officials.

(C) TELEPHONES.

Receipts for the year under review amounted to £124 2*s*. 9*d*., and expenditure to £95 8*s*. 7*d*. as compared with £97 13*s*. 11*d*. and £93 10*s*. respectively in 1921.

VIII.—GENERAL OBSERVATIONS.

(A) ROADS.

The amount spent on the repair and maintenance of rural roads came to £832 0*s*. 9*d*., to which the tax on fibre and tow contributed £298 3*s*. 6*d*., as against an expenditure of £940 10*s*. 11*d*. in the previous year.

Greater expenditure is, however, required if the condition of the roads is to be made in any way permanently satisfactory. The cost of repairs to buildings was high, owing to the large amount of work necessary to deal with the ravages of white ants, particularly at Plantation and Francis Plain House. The importation of ant-resisting wood for repairs is of vital necessity. The Government buildings from the Wharf to the Court House were colour-washed and painted this year, the last occasion having been in 1911.

The amount collected under the Road Tax Ordinance was £69 3*s*. as compared with £68 5*s*. in 1921. A considerable number of men are now employed at Ascension. There were 25 prosecutions under this Ordinance.

(B) LAND GRANTS.

There were no grants of Crown Waste Land in the year under review, though several are pending for 1923.

The general value of land remained unaltered.

(C) RATE OF WAGES AND COST OF LIVING.

From the following comparative table it will be seen that the cost of necessary foodstuffs in 1922 dropped further, though it remains at just over 100 per cent. higher (for all commodities) as compared with pre-war, that is to say, that while in 1920 the figure was 176·08 per cent. above, in 1921 134·54, in 1922 it may be taken at 100. There was an ample supply of fish.

	1921.	1922.
Flour	... $4\frac{1}{2}d.$ per lb.	... $3\frac{1}{2}d.$ per lb.
Bread	... $5\frac{1}{2}d.$ per $1\frac{1}{2}$ lb.	... $4d.$ per $1\frac{1}{2}$ lb.
Sugar	... $10d.$ per lb.	... $5d.$ per lb.
Dripping	... 1/2 per lb.	... 1/- per lb.
Tea	2/- to 3/- per lb.	2/- to 3/- per lb.
Salt	... $4d.$ per lb.	... $3d.$ per lb.
Rice	... $2d.$ per lb.	... $2d.$ per lb.

Rate of Wages.—The same as in 1921, viz. : 2*s.* to 2*s.* 6*d.* daily. Unemployment was somewhat relieved towards the end of the year owing to the engagement by the Eastern Telegraph Company of an additional 50 men for work at Ascension.

The Red Gate Food Depôt continued its good work by handing a weekly ration to 67 very old people on Fridays. The Soup Kitchen, too, remained of the utmost benefit to many very poor people in Jamestown who received a daily meal. Strenuous endeavours are, however, needed if both these institutions are to continue on their present scale.

(D) DEPARTMENTS AND INSTITUTIONS.

During the year under review an expenditure of £2,351 4*s.* 10*d.* was incurred under "Works Recurrent," of which sum £832 0*s.* 9*d.* was expended on the repair of rural roads, being less by £92 11*s.* 1*d.* than that expended during the previous year. This saving cannot, however, be regarded as satisfactory, being entirely caused by the stern demand for economy.

Poor Board.

The Revenue of the Poor Board amounted to £1,189 16*s.* 10*d.*, and the Expenditure of £1,055 7*s.* 9*d.*, as against £964 10*s.* and £969 14*s.* 6*d.* respectively in 1921.

Public Market.

The Revenue received was £46 3*s.* 8*d.*, and Expenditure £26 10*s.* 5*d.*, a considerable improvement on the previous year when the amounts were £21 11*s.* 5*d.* and £15 3*s.* 5*d.* respectively.

(E) MISCELLANEOUS.

Mr. H. J. Pink was appointed Colonial Treasurer vice Mr. R. R. Bruce, who retired on pension, and arrived in the Colony on 25th December.

The outstanding event of the year as far as the Colony was concerned was the transfer of the Island of Ascension from the Admiralty to the jurisdiction of the St. Helena Government. Ascension became a Dependency of St. Helena on 27th October, and reports bearing on its progress will duly appear in this summary in future years.

R. F. PEEL,
Governor and Commander-in-Chief.

THE CASTLE,
ST. HELENA,
20th May, 1923.

COLONIAL REPORTS, ETC.

The following recent reports, etc., relating to His Majesty's Colonial Possessions have been issued, and may be obtained from the sources indicated on the title page :—

ANNUAL.

No.	*Colony, etc.*	*Year.*
1130	Fiji	1921
1131	Basutoland	1921–1922
1132	Bermuda	1921
1133	Bechuanaland Protectorate	1921–1922
1134	Barbados	,,
1135	Trinidad	1921
1136	British Honduras	,,
1137	Ceylon	,,
1138	Swaziland	,,
1139	Hongkong	,,
1140	Straits Settlements	,,
1141	St. Lucia	,,
1142	Ashanti	,,
1143	Jamaica	,,
1144	Falkland Islands	1920
1145	Bahamas	1921–1922
1146	Seychelles	1921
1147	Turks and Caicos Islands	,,
1148	British Solomon Islands Protectorate	1921–1922
1149	Mauritius	1921
1150	Sierra Leone	,,
1151	Uganda	,,
1152	Somaliland	,,
1153	Kenya Colony and Protectorate	April–Dec., ,,
1154	Gold Coast	,,
1155	Nigeria	1922
1156	Nyasaland	1921
1167	Falkland Islands	,,
1158	Weihaiwei	1922
1159	Cyprus	,,
1160	Gambia	,,
1161	New Hebrides	1921 & 1922
1162	Nyasaland	1922
1163	Zanzibar	,,

MISCELLANEOUS.

No.	*Colony, etc.*	*Subject.*
83	Southern Nigeria	Mineral Survey, 1910.
84	West Indies	Preservation of Ancient Monuments, etc.
85	Southern Nigeria	Mineral Survey, 1911.
86	Southern Nigeria	Mineral Survey, 1912.
87	Ceylon	Mineral Survey.
88	Imperial Institute	Oilseeds, Oils, etc.
89	Southern Nigeria	Mineral Survey, 1913.
90	St. Vincent	Roads and Land Settlement.
91	East Africa Protectorate	Geology and Geography of the northern part of the Protectorate.
92	Colonies—General	Fishes of the Colonies.
93	Pitcairn Island	Report on a visit to the Island by the High Commissioner for the Western Pacific.

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COLONIAL REPORTS—ANNUAL.

No. 1224.

ST. HELENA.

REPORT FOR 1923.

(For Report for 1922 see No. 1164.)

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No. 1224.

ST. HELENA.

ANNUAL GENERAL REPORT FOR THE YEAR 1923.

I.—FINANCIAL.

(A) REVENUE.

The revenue for the year amounted to £11,509 9s. 4d., exclusive of any grant-in-aid; this shows a decrease of £1,772 18s. 4d. as compared with the results for 1922, when the revenue received amounted to £13,282 7s. 8d., exclusive of a grant-in-aid of £3,000.

This decrease, however, is more than accounted for by a shortfall of £2,005 in the estimate for Ascension stamps, the estimate having been made on the assumption that a new permanent issue of stamps would be made for Ascension in 1923.

Further, a sum of £400 due from the Government Flax Mill towards revenue in 1923 was not credited by the Crown Agents during the financial year; had this been done the revenue would have amounted to just under £12,000.

(B) EXPENDITURE.

The expenditure amounted to £13,959 15s. 11d., showing increases of expenditure under 12 heads amounting to £3,751 1s., while decreases occurred under 14 heads amounting to £727 3s. 11d., the principal increase being the payment of mail subsidy on account of Ascension Island.

(C) ASSETS AND LIABILITIES.

The annual statement of assets and liabilities shows a balance of assets over liabilities of £260 7s. 2d., in spite of the fact that there was no grant-in-aid.

(D) CURRENCY.

Bills on the Crown Agents amounted to £11,815 7s. 8d. during the year. No import or export of specie took place.

II.—TRADE, AGRICULTURE, AND INDUSTRIES.

(A) TRADE.

Revenue.

The Customs revenue for the year under report amounted to £3,515 7s. 10d., as against £3,096 7s. 11d. in 1922, giving a satisfactory increase of £418 19s. 11d.

Increases appear under wharfage dues, £167 9s. 5d.; import duties £82 19s. 2d.; warehouse rent, £9 9s. 5d.; water, £76 9s.; special war dues, £23 7s. 4d.; and export dues, £66 3s. 10d.

Unemployment was considerably relieved owing to work having been found for many men at Ascension; this improved trade generally and caused a steady increase in revenue.

Expenditure.

The Customs expenditure in 1923 amounted to £376 5s. 9d., as against £370 14s. 5d. in 1922, showing a small increase of £5 11s. 9d.; this, in view of the increase in revenue, is not unsatisfactory, having regard to the fact that the expenditure in 1921 was £390 5s. 4d.

Imports.

The value of imports in 1923 amounted to £47,948, as against £44,636 in 1922, giving an increase of £3,312.

The principal increases occur under drapery and dry goods, £1,120; flour, £377; foodstuffs (other than enumerated), £790; hardware, metals, etc., £146; oilman stores, £119; paraffin oil, £226; machinery, £1,409 (principally for a new flax mill); spirits, £128; and wine, £112.

Principal decreases appear under salt beef and pork, £128; chemicals and drugs, £264; rice, £489; stationery, £659; sugar, £838. These decreases appear to indicate that the people are beginning to depend more on home-grown goods.

Exports.

The value of exports in 1923 amounted to £26,366, as against £24,418 in 1922 and £14,344 in 1921, showing an appreciation of £1,948.

Principal increases are shown under fibre, £3,876; and tow, £655 (the market price of tow gradually rose in 1923); calves, £264; sheep, £506; hay and forage, £285.

Decreases are shown under rope, £340; wool, £624; specie, £2,255; and furniture, £305.

The specie exported in 1922 was due to the closing of the branch of the National Bank of South Africa in Jamestown, and was chiefly in silver coin, of which there is usually rather an overplus in St. Helena.

(15876) Wt.14697/985 500 11/24 Harrow G. 94

(B) AGRICULTURE, STOCK, FORESTS, AND GARDENS.

The year cannot be considered to have been a good one for agriculture; the seasons were very uneven; up to September there was a particularly heavy rainfall amounting to some 40 inches; from September to the end of the year there was practically a drought, only 4 inches of rain being recorded. This resulted in a failure in the potato and maize crops in the latter months. The price of potatoes rose at one time to 3s. 6d. a gallon.

Herbage was also very short.

Maldivia Garden.—The sale of fruit from "Maldivia" produced £65 15s. 9¼d., as against an expenditure of £54 1s. The balance of this fund now stands at £15 8s. 0¼d.

The chief items of expenditure besides the gardener's wages were £11 11s. for guano for manure and £3 for seed potatoes.

Botley's Lay.—The Government pasture lands at Botley's Lay produced a revenue of £94 0s. 3d., as against an expenditure of £84 4s. 6d., the balance standing to the credit of the account at the end of the year amounting to £42 6s. 10d. A portion of this balance will, however, have to be expended in 1924 in repairing the shepherd's cottage and improving the water supply, which has never been satisfactory.

(C) INDUSTRIES.

Fibre.—The Government Flax Mill worked for 263 days during the year, as compared with 254 days in 1922, producing 141 tons of fibre and 46 tons of tow, as compared with 130 tons of fibre and 48½ tons of tow in the previous year.

The average price obtained in the London market was £28 14s. per ton for fibre and £22 19s. for tow, as compared with £29 7s. for fibre and £20 11s. for tow in 1922.

The price of fibre remains fairly constant, while that of tow shows a tendency to rise.

Private Mills.—Messrs. Solomon & Co.'s mills at Sandy Bay and Broad Bottom worked practically throughout the year and produced the following output:—

	Fibre.		Tow.	
	Tons.	Cwt.	Tons.	Cwt.
Sandy Bay	121	11	21	15
Broad Bottom ...	110	9	29	6
Totals ...	232	0	51	1

Messrs. Solomon had 44 employees at Sandy Bay and 37 at Broad Bottom.

Messrs. Deason produced 268 tons of fibre and 107 tons of tow at Hutts Gate and Woody Ridge, giving employment to 160 hands.

A new flax mill was erected near Francis Plain by Messrs. Thorpe & Sons in the latter part of the year. The results for four and a half months' work showing 22 tons of fibre and 20 tons of tow. Twenty-two hands were employed.

It will be observed from the above that the flax industry in St. Helena gave direct employment to some 300 people in 1923, being an average of approximately one in ten of the population.

Rope.—The rope industry appears to have been at a low ebb in 1923, only about £480 worth of rope having been manufactured. Captain Mainwaring is, however, proceeding to England in 1924, so that he may possibly obtain information there which may be helpful to his venture.

(D) SHIPPING.

Thirty-seven vessels called during the year. All of these were British with the exception of one Danish vessel, one American steamer, one American light cruiser, one Swedish sailing ship, and one Norwegian whaler.

The total number of vessels sighted at the station was 51, as compared with 47 in 1922.

Twenty-six vessels entered and cleared at the Port of Jamestown, their total net tonnage being 122,261, as compared with 128,604 in 1922.

III.—EDUCATION.

Education proceeded normally and without any important change.

The numbers of children attending may be taken as :—

Government schools	254
Other schools	379
	633

as compared with 573 in 1922.

The school attendance officer reports the attendance at all schools good.

There was one prosecution under the Education Ordinance.

The superintendent visited the schools regularly and examined the children at the end of each quarter. He reports that in every case he found the teachers enthusiastic in their work, anxious for good results, and the children for the most part quick to respond. As forecasted last year, the teaching of needlework has been resumed with highly satisfactory results. The teachers, by making suitable garments, are able to find a sale for a certain percentage, and are able with the money thus obtained to buy fresh material. The giving of school prizes, which had lapsed during the war, was resumed, and the prizes were distributed at the end of the year by the Acting Governor, who expressed himself as highly satisfied with the evidence of good work done.

Games have been encouraged, and school football and cricket leagues are now in existence.

The pupil teachers' class continues every week, and the results as shown by the examination at the end of the year are distinctly encouraging.

IV.—GOVERNMENT INSTITUTIONS.

(A) HOSPITAL.

There were 157 admissions to hospital during the year, as compared with 174 in 1923.

Seven deaths occurred, equal to a death-rate of 4·5 per cent., as compared with 2·2 per cent. in 1923.

New and convenient quarters were provided for the nursing staff at St. John's Villa, which had been taken over by the Colonial Government from the Admiralty, and which, after complete renovation, was occupied by the nurses in April.

(B) SAVINGS BANK.

On the 31st December, 1923, there were 173 depositors having accounts with the Government Savings Bank, as against 148 on the same date in 1922 and 107 in 1921.

Cash deposits amounted to £4,751 19s. 6d., as against £4,190 14s. 11d. in 1922 and £602 13s. 3d. in 1921.

Repayments to depositors amounted to £2,349 13s. 9d., as compared with £1,179 5s. 1d. in 1922.

Stock to the amount of £9,231 actual value was invested on savings bank account on 31st December, 1923, as compared with £9,205 in 1922.

V.—JUDICIAL STATISTICS.

(A) CRIMINAL.

Supreme Court.—No cases were brought before the Supreme Court during the year under review.

Police Court.—Fifty-seven cases were dealt with in the police court, as compared with 88 in the previous year. There were 30 convictions, as compared with 52, a decrease of 22.

(B) PRISONS.

Twenty-one persons were committed to gaol or placed on remand during the year, as compared with 28 in 1922.

The daily average number in gaol was ·9, as compared with 1·3 in 1922 and 1·4 in 1921.

There was no sickness among the prisoners during the year.

The cost of maintaining the gaol was £96 7s. 4d., as compared with £108 5s. 2d. in the previous year, £126 16s. 5d. in 1921, and £240 15s. 3d. in 1920.

Dog Tax.—£102 was collected under dog tax, as compared with £82 10s. in 1922.

VI.—VITAL STATISTICS.

(A) POPULATION.

The estimated civil population on the 31st December, 1923, amounted to 3,654, showing a decrease of 4 below that of 1922.

Civil emigrants numbered 191 and immigrants 101, as against 174 and 102 respectively in the previous year.

Deaths registered in 1923 numbered 28, as compared with 37 in 1922; of these 9 were under the age of one year.

Births in 1923 amounted to 114 (not including two stillborn), as against 97 in 1922. Forty-four illegitimate births took place.

The death-rate in 1923 appears as 7·66 per 1,000, as compared with 9·87 in 1922 and 6·5 in 1921, thus getting back to an average of about 8 per 1,000, which shows that the climate of St. Helena must be good.

The birth-rate was 31·19 per 1,000, as against 25·88 in the previous year.

Marriages solemnised in 1923 numbered 20, the same figure as that for the two previous years.

(B) PUBLIC HEALTH.

The general health of the community continued to be satisfactory.

A mild but widespread epidemic of influenza prevailed in the months of January and February, repeating the experience of the previous year.

During these two months the trade wind frequently fails, and this occurrence certainly favours the spread of air-borne infection.

Heavy floods were experienced in the month of April, and the main reservoir of the Jamestown water supply was contaminated by flood water from the neighbouring streams gaining access to the reservoir through the roof. Fortunately no illness was traceable to the temporary mixing of stream and spring water, and the damage has now been made good.

(C) SANITARY.

Seven meetings of the Board of Health were held during the year, and various matters of minor importance were discussed and adjusted.

(D) CLIMATE.

Meteorological Station, Hutts Gate.

Barometer.—The mean pressure for the year was 28·101, as compared with 28·107 for 1922.

Temperature.—The mean temperature was 62·0, as compared with 61·1 in the previous year. The absolute maximum was recorded on 25th July as 80·1 (81·6 being the maximum in 1922 on 18th February). The absolute minimum temperature was 50·0, recorded on 8th July.

Rainfall.—The maximum fall was recorded on 16th August and read 2·96 in. March to August inclusive were wet months, but the last four months of the year were very dry. The number of rainy days at Hutts Gate totalled 193, and at Plantation 247.

The total rainfall recorded at Hutts Gate was 45·74 in., at Plantation 45 in., and in Jamestown 10·14 in.

Wind.—The mean force for the year was 1·8.

There were 23 calm days, as compared with 11 in 1922. The direction for the year was as follows :—

E.	1
E.S.E.	64
S.E.	235
S.S.E.	42
Calm	23

VII.—POSTAL, TELEGRAPH, AND TELEPHONE SERVICES.

(A) POST OFFICE.

Revenue.—The gross revenue from all sources amounted to £3,432 3s. 3d., as against £7,286 8s. 7d. collected in 1922, thus showing a drop of £3,854 5s. 4d. This cannot, however, be considered as altogether unsatisfactory, as the abnormal receipts in 1922 were due almost entirely to large sales of the new issue of stamps for St. Helena and Ascension.

In 1923 there was no new issue of stamps, and, though demands from dealers were below what had been hoped for, the receipts compare very favourably with those for 1921, which amounted to £741 15s. 2d.

Expenditure.—The expenditure of the Department amounted to £732 16s. 4d., a decrease of £334 13s. 9d. as compared with the previous year.

Money and Postal Orders.—Transactions under this head were as follows :—

	1921.	1922.	1923.
	£	£	£
To the United Kingdom and South Africa	1,587	6,378	11,836
From the United Kingdom and South Africa	1,357	1,788	2,375

Commission received on the above transactions during the year amounted to £160 19s. 1d., as compared with £71 7s. 5d. in 1922 and £20 9s. 9d. in 1921.

No insured or registered articles despatched were lost during the year under review.

(B) TELEGRAPHS.

There was no change in the telegraph tariff during the year except the introduction of cable letter telegrams normally delivered after 48 hours at a quarter the ordinary rate.

The Eastern Telegraph Company maintained their normal staff.

(C) TELEPHONES.

The receipts for the year under review amounted to £84 9s. 3d., and expenditure to £94 8s. 8d., as compared with £124 2s. 9d. and £95 8s. 7d. respectively in 1922.

VIII.—GENERAL OBSERVATIONS.

(A) ROADS.

The amount spent on the repair and maintenance of rural roads came to £976 8s. 6d., out of which the tax on fibre and tow contributed £371 1s. 11d. and the road tax £71, as against an expenditure of £832 0s. 9d. in the previous year, with an offset of £298 3s. 6d. from the flax tax and £69 3s. from the road tax.

The roads to-day are in an infinitely better condition than they have been for many years, in spite of a most trying year, during the earlier part of which, owing to excessive rain and floods, large portions of the surface were swept away and the supporting walls demolished in many places. On one occasion sixteen breaks occurred in the walls in two days.

This satisfactory state of affairs is entirely due to the energy, hard work and good example set to the roadmen by the new Clerk of Works, who arrived here early in the year. Constant supervision and forethought are necessary if, with the small amount of money annually available and the heavy flax traffic, the roads are to be maintained in proper condition.

The following principal roads received special attention :--

Casons to Peak Farm.
White Gate to Half Tree Hollow.
New Ground Road to St. Paul's.
Ladder Hill Road.
Two Gun Saddle to Gordon's Post (stoned the whole way).
Gordon's Post to Hutts Gate (stoned the whole way).
Red Hill Road to Messrs. Thorpe's Flax Mill (a new road necessitated by a new mill).

Peak Hill to Francis Plain (road washed away by heavy rains).
High Peak to Thompson's Wood.
Hutts Gate to Longwood.
Longwood Avenue Road.
Rock Rose Road to Sandy Bay Ridge (widened, repaired, walls built up at side).

Repairs to Buildings.—The annual vote of £400 for repairs to buildings is inadequate, but this figure is determined by the financial position of the Colony. A large portion of this sum is normally spent in wages and imported material.

The total expenditure in 1923 came to £578 4s. 3d., but repairs on a larger scale than usual were carried out, including extensive repairs to the post office, hospital and New Ground House, in addition to the constant renovation of the damage caused by white ants at Plantation House. Special expenditure has now been sanctioned to save Plantation House.

The amount collected under road tax was £71. There were six prosecutions under the " Road Tax " ordinance.

(B) LAND GRANTS.

Twenty-three grants of Crown waste land were made in 1923 for flax and garden ground amounting to 17 acres.

(C) RATE OF WAGES AND COST OF LIVING.

The cost of living for 1923 remained practically the same as in the previous year, though some very necessary articles of diet such as rice and sugar cost more. Fish was plentiful.

	1922.	1923.
Flour	3½d. per lb.	3d. per lb.
Bread	4d. per 1½ lb.	4d. per 1½ lb.
Sugar	5d. per lb.	6d. per lb.
Dripping... ...	1s. per lb.	1s. per lb.
Tea	2s. 3s. per lb.	2s. 3s. per lb.
Salt	3d. per lb.	2d. per lb.
Rice	2d. per lb.	3d. per lb.

Rate of Wages.—The same as in 1922, viz., 2s. to 2s. 6d. daily. Unemployment has been considerably relieved by a greater output of fibre than formerly and also by the need for additional workmen in Ascension owing to the starting of the guano industry.

The Red Gate Depot continued its good work of helping the very aged poor by the provision of a weekly ration.

(D) DEPARTMENTS AND INSTITUTIONS.

During the year under review an expenditure of £2,366 11s. 4d. was incurred under " Works Recurrent," of which sum £976 8s. 6d. was expended on the repair and renovation of rural roads.

Poor Board.—The revenue of the Poor Board amounted to £1,072 16s. 5¼d. and the expenditure to £930 8s. 5¾d., which compares satisfactorily with £1,189 16s. 10d. and £1,055 7s. 9d. respectively in 1922.

Public Market.—The revenue received was £33 12s. 8½d. and expenditure £22 14s. 2d., the previous year's accounts showing £46 3s. 8d. and £26 10s. 5d. respectively.

(E) MISCELLANEOUS.

Miss Thompson was appointed Matron at the Civil Hospital, to succeed Miss Bennett, in April.

Mr. F. Lane was appointed Clerk of Works in succession to Mr. Thomas Broadway, who had held this office for 35 years.

Mr. Lea, the new Crown Prosecutor and Law Officer, arrived in October. With his arrival every office authorised is filled, a condition which has not been present here for many years.

(F) ASCENSION.

The Colonial Government have in Ascension a Magistrate, who is superintendent of the Eastern Telegraph Company's branch there, a Harbour Master and Postmaster, and a Registrar, who are also members of the staff of the telegraph company.

The post office is a sub-office of the office in Jamestown, to which it renders monthly reports. The finances of Ascension are controlled from St. Helena.

A concession to collect phosphates and guano in Ascension is now being worked by the Ascension Island Phosphate and Guano Company (Sales Concession), Limited. It is hoped that the results will be favourable.

About 75 St. Helena men are employed by the company.

ROBERT F. PEEL,
Governor and Commander-in-Chief.

THE CASTLE,
ST. HELENA,
10*th May*, 1924.

COLONIAL REPORTS, ETC.

The following recent reports, etc., relating to His Majesty's Colonial Possessions have been issued, and may be obtained from the sources indicated on the title page :—

ANNUAL.

No.	*Colony, etc.*	*Year.*
1189	British Solomon Islands Protectorate	1922–1923
1190	Jamaica	1922
1191	Seychelles	,,
1192	Bahamas	1922–1923
1193	Somaliland	1922
1194	Northern Territories of the Gold Coast	1922–1923
1195	Leeward Islands	,,
1196	Turks and Caicos Islands	1922
1197	Nigeria	1923
1198	Weihaiwei	,,
1199	Gilbert and Ellice Islands	1922–1923
1200	Ashanti	,,
1201	Gambia	1923
1202	Bahamas	1923–1924
1203	Hongkong	1922
1204	Nyasaland	1923
1205	Cayman Islands	1922
1206	Cyprus	1923
1207	Gold Coast	1922–1923
1208	Trinidad and Tobago	1923
1209	Zanzibar Protectorate	,,
1210	Bechuanaland Protectorate	1923–1924
1211	Swaziland	1923
1212	Basutoland	1923–1924
1213	Turks and Caicos Islands	1923
1214	Fiji	,,
1215	British Honduras	,,
1216	New Hebrides	,,
1217	Gibraltar	,,
1218	Jamaica	,,
1219	Sierra Leone	,,
1220	Uganda	,,
1221	Grenada	,,
1222	British Guiana	,,
1223	St. Vinceut	,,

MISCELLANEOUS.

No.	*Colony, etc.*	*Subject.*
83	Southern Nigeria	Mineral Survey, 1910.
84	West Indies	Preservation of Ancient Monuments, etc.
85	Southern Nigeria	Mineral Survey, 1911.
86	Southern Nigeria	Mineral Survey, 1912.
87	Ceylon	Mineral Survey.
88	Imperial Institute	Oilseeds, Oils, etc.
89	Southern Nigeria	Mineral Survey, 1913.
90	St. Vincent	Roads and Land Settlement.
91	East Africa Protectorate	Geology and Geography of the northern part of the Protectorate.
92	Colonies—General	Fishes of the Colonies.
93	Pitcairn Island	Report on a visit to the Island by the High Commissioner for the Western Pacific.

Printed by H.M.S.O. PRESS, HARROW.

COLONIAL REPORTS—ANNUAL.

No. 1251.

ST. HELENA.

REPORT FOR 1924.

(For Report for 1923 see No. 1224.)

LONDON:
PRINTED AND PUBLISHED BY HIS MAJESTY'S STATIONERY OFFICE
To be purchased directly from H.M. STATIONERY OFFICE at the following addresses.
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No. 1251.

ST. HELENA.

ANNUAL GENERAL REPORT FOR THE YEAR 1924.

I.—Financial.

(*a*) Revenue.

The revenue for the year amounted to £12,699 4s. 1d., exclusive of any grant-in-aid, thus showing an increase, as compared with the previous year's revenue, of £1,189 14s. 9d.

With the exception of two, all heads of revenue were in excess of the estimate.

The increase in revenue was mainly due to larger imports, sale of postage stamps to non-resident dealers, and to a general improvement in the economic conditions of the Island.

There was a grant-in-aid of £4,000 to general revenue and a grant of £3,000 was authorised for ant-resisting timber for repairs to Government House. The latter grant was not, however, received, as it was not possible to arrange for the purchase of the timber within the financial year.

(*b*) Expenditure.

The year's expenditure amounted to £14,182 3s. There were savings under all heads with the exception of one.

A gratifying feature of the year's finances was the reduction of the Colony's overdraft with the Crown Agents from £7,500 on 1st January to £1,500 on 31st December.

(*c*) Assets and Liabilities.

There was a marked improvement in the statement of assets and liabilities, the balance of assets over liabilities on the 31st December being £2,777 8s. 3d., as compared with £260 7s. 2d. on 31st December of the preceding year.

(*d*) Currency.

Bills of exchange on the Crown Agents issued during the year amounted to £13,599 6s. 8d. There was no importation or exportation of specie.

II.—Trade, Agriculture and Industries.

(*a*) TRADE.

Revenue.

The Customs revenue for the year under review amounted to £3,985 6s., being an increase of £469 18s. 2d. as compared with the revenue of the previous year.

The principal excesses of revenue appear under wharfage dues, £32 12s. 6d.; import duties, £257 13s. 1d.; tonnage dues, £198 17s. 9d.; and export wharfage, £53 17s. 7d.

The increase under import duties is due to a larger consumption of spirits, owing to the introduction of a cheaper brand, and to improved conditions generally. The increase under tonnage dues is due to two Admiralty colliers arriving within the year, and paying 1s. per ton on 3,559 tons of coal landed.

Expenditure.

The expenditure for the year on Customs services amounted to £438 6s. 6d., as against £376 5s. 9d. in 1923, showing an increase of £62 0s. 9d. This increase is due to the salary, £10, of the Registrar of Deeds, etc., being embodied in the Customs expenditure; increase of salary for crane overseer, £12; extra refund of duty on beer supplied to the troops, £10 7s. 8d.; and petty refunds of £14 17s. 4d.

Imports.

The value of imports in 1924 amounted to £51,421, as compared with £47,948 in 1923, thus showing an increase of £3,473. The principal increases occurred under animals, £376; butter and margarine, £537; coal, £727; rice, £342; wine, £322; foodstuffs (other than enumerated), £1,183; and machinery, £1,289.

Advantage having been taken of the arrival of Admiralty colliers, a large consignment of anthracite coal was imported for use in two of the flax mills. This accounts for the increase under coal. Rope machinery to the value of £1,600 is accountable for the increase under machinery.

Principal decreases appear under boats, £300; drapery and dry goods, £320; flour, £768; oilman stores, £478.

Exports.

The value of exports for the year under review amounted to £36,160, an increase of £9,794 when compared with the previous year. This increase is wholly due to the export of larger quantities of fibre and tow, which commanded a higher market price than in 1923. Fibre and tow exported during the year amounted to 694 and 284 tons respectively, valued at £27,078 and £7,113, as compared with the previous year's shipments of 634 and 216 tons, valued at £18,196 and £4,968. Decreases occurred under

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rope, £488, the ropery having closed down during the year; potatoes, £490, none being exported; and sheep, £411, Ascension having imported the last-named direct from South Africa.

(*b*) Agriculture, Stock, Forests, and Gardens.

Owing to the absence of rain, the year under review, like its predecessor, cannot be considered favourable from an agricultural view-point. The potato crops were poor; in fact, this commodity had to be imported. June, July and August were very dry months, and pasture lands were getting bare and herbage short by September, when fortunately rain fell, which improved the position.

Maldivia Garden.—The amount derived from the sale of fruit from "Maldivia" was £83 15s. 5d., as against an expenditure of £67 16s. The balance standing to the credit of this fund at the end of the year was £33 9s. 1d.

Botley's Lay.—The revenue derived from the Government pasture lands at Botley's Lay amounted to £104 16s. 7d., the expenditure being £85 7s. 8d. A credit balance of £61 15s. 9d. remained on the 31st December.

Certain necessary improvements were undertaken during the year, the principal being the construction of drinking troughs for cattle.

Owing to the dry weather causing a scarcity of food some of the poorer people lost their cattle.

(*c*) Industries.

Fibre.—The Government flax mill ran on 178 days, up to the 10th September of the year under review. On the 16th October the working of the mill was handed over to a private London company called The St. Helena Corporation, Ltd.

Particulars of output, etc., up to the 10th September, under Government control, are as follows:—946 tons of green leaf were milled, producing 102 tons of fibre and 32½ tons of tow. The average price obtained in the London market up to the above date was £33 per ton.

Under the control of the St. Helena Corporation, Ltd., from the 16th October to the 31st December, 345 tons green leaf were handled, producing 26 tons fibre and 17 tons tow.

Private Mills.—Messrs. Solomon & Co.'s mills at Sandy Bay and Broadbottom worked throughout the year. The following figures show the output of the mills named:—

Sandy Bay	142	tons fibre.
	28	tons tow.
Broadbottom	121½	tons fibre.
	33	tons tow.

Forty-six persons were employed at the mill at Sandy Bay and 40 at Broadbottom.

Messrs. Deason Brother's mill at Hutts Gate produced 245 tons fibre and 147 tons tow, employing 154 people.

Messrs. W. A. Thorpe & Son's mill at " Francis Plain " produced 90 tons fibre and 60 tons tow, and gave employment to 39 people.

(*d*) SHIPPING.

The number of vessels calling at the Port during the year under review was 34, being 3 less than in 1923. All of these were of British nationality, except one Norwegian whaler, one American yacht, and one American merchant ship. One British cruiser, H.M.S. " Weymouth," also visited the Colony.

The total number of vessels sighted at the station was 40, as compared with 51 in 1923.

Thirty vessels entered and cleared at the port of Jamestown, their net total tonnage being 131,592, as compared with 122,261 in the preceding year.

III.—Education.

The work of the schools went on efficiently during the year, and the general standard was well maintained. In one of the Government schools, in addition to the ordinary curriculum, a start has been made in freehand drawing and elementary algebra. It is hoped to extend these additions to the senior standards in the other schools.

The number of children attending school was :—

Government schools	236
Other schools	364

The attendance at school throughout the year was good. There were no prosecutions under the Education Ordinance.

The Superintendent of Education personally examined the schools at the end of each quarter, and he has expressed satisfaction at the good work each school is doing.

A technical class is sadly needed where instruction in carpentry and other crafts could be given, with advantage, to the bigger boys.

The pupil teachers have regularly received instructions from the Superintendent in English, arithmetic, elementary algebra, geography, physiography, and as an optional subject, shorthand. At the end of the year, of the seven receiving instruction, four passed out, having completed their four years' course, and are now graded as ex-pupil teachers preliminary to becoming second-class assistant teachers.

The needlework at the country school and girls' school in Jamestown has progressed with very satisfactory results.

IV.—Government Institutions.

(*a*) Hospital.

One hundred and sixty-nine persons were admitted to the hospital during the year, there being eight admissions less than in the previous year. There were three deaths, equivalent to 2 per cent., against 4·5 per cent. in the previous year.

The average number of indoor patients per day was 10.

(*b*) Savings Bank.

On the 31st December of the year under review there were 206 depositors having accounts with the Government Savings Bank, as against 178 on the same date in 1923.

Cash deposits amounted to £3,452 12s. 9d., the deposits during the previous year having been £4,751 19s. 6d., a falling off of £1,299 6s. 9d. This is, however, due to the several local benefit societies re-depositing their funds during 1923 after the closing of the local branch of the National Bank of South Africa, in which bank their money was deposited.

Repayment to depositors amounted to £2,475 6s. 1d., compared with £2,349 13s. 9d. in the previous year.

Stock to the value of £12,082 0s. 10d., cost price, was invested on account of the Savings Bank on the 31st December.

V.—Judicial Statistics.

(*a*) Criminal.

Supreme Court.

Seven cases came before the Supreme Court during the year under review. Of these, five cases were heard, resulting in one acquittal and four convictions in which sentences were passed ranging from six to twelve months' imprisonment with hard labour. The remaining two cases were referred to the Hilary Sessions.

The various charges involved included the following offences :—

(*a*) Causing actual bodily harm with intent to cause grievous bodily harm.
(*b*) Rape.
(*c*) Indecent assault with intent to commit a felony.
(*d*) Obtaining goods and money by false pretences.
(*e*) Forgery and uttering forged documents.
(*f*) Perjury.
(*g*) Larceny.

On the Civil side there has been very little court work.

Police Court.

Thirty-two cases were dealt with in this court, as against 57 in the preceding year. There were 18 convictions, 4 sent up for trial in the Supreme Court, 10 withdrawn or discharged.

Small Debts Court.

Only one case came before this court during the year.

(*b*) PRISONS.

Sixteen persons were sent to gaol during the year, as compared with 21 in 1923.

The daily average number in gaol was 2·9 as against 0·9 in 1923.

The cost of maintaining the gaol was £135 6s. 7d., an increase of £27 1s. 5d. over the previous year.

VI.—Legislation.

Four Ordinances were promulgated during the year namely :—

No. 1. The Harbour (Amendment) Ordinance.
No. 2. The Elementary Education (Amendment) Ordinance.
No. 3. The Appropriation Ordinance.
No. 4. The Supplementary Expenditure (1923) Ordinance.

Ordinance No. 1 makes provision for the harbour master to receive a boarding fee.

Ordinance No. 2 repeals Section IV of Ordinance No. 2 of 1903, entitled the Elementary Education Ordinance, 1903, which provided for the number of attendances at school in each year.

Ordinances Nos. 3 and 4. Both of these were in connection with public expenditure.

VII.—Vital Statistics.

(*a*) POPULATION.

The civil population on the 31st December, 1924, was estimated at 3,703, an increase of 49 over that of the previous year.

Civil emigrants numbered 149 and immigrants 130, as compared with 191 and 101 respectively of the year previous.

There were 38 deaths during the year, as against 28 in 1923. Out of the 38 deaths, 11 were under the age of one year. The death-rate was 10·23 per 1,000, compared with 7·66 in 1923.

The number of births was 106 (not including 4 still-born), as against 114 (and 2 still-born) in the preceding year.

Illegitimates registered in 1924 were 36, being 8 less than in 1923.

Marriages solemnized during the year were 21, being 1 more than in the previous year.

(*b*) PUBLIC HEALTH.

It will be observed above that the infant mortality was large, but no specific reason can be assigned. The deaths were all from what might be termed natural causes in very young children.

A mild epidemic of influenza was prevalent in the months of February and March, but there was no appreciable rise in the death-rate on this account. On the whole the general health of the Colony during the year can be considered as good.

(*c*) Sanitary.

The Board of Health met regularly during the year and various matters were discussed and dealt with by the Board.

The drainage system worked very satisfactorily and the water supply proved ample and good.

There were no prosecutions under the Board of Health Ordinance during the year.

(*d*) Climate.

Meteorological Statistics, Hutts Gate.

Barometer.—The mean pressure for the year was 28·100, as against 28·101 in the previous year.

Temperature.—The mean temperature was 60·3°, as compared with 62·0° in 1923.

The absolute maximum, 81·5°, was registered on the 1st March, as compared with 80·1° on the 25th July of the previous year.

The absolute minimum temperature was 51·1°, recorded on the 9th August, the corresponding record in 1923 having been 50·0° on the 8th July.

Wind.—The mean force for the year was 1·6, as against 1·8 in 1923.

There were 60 calm days, as compared with 23 in the previous year.

The direction for the year was as follows :—

S.E.	248 days.
S.S.E.	14 days.
E.S.E.	44 days.
Calm	60 days.

Rainfall.—The total rainfall recorded at Hutts Gate for the year was 33·160 in., as against 45·740 in 1923. The maximum fall, 1·11 in., was recorded on the 7th February. It will be observed that the year was a particularly dry one, just over 12½ fewer inches of rain falling than in the previous year. August, which is generally a wet month, was very dry, 1·73 in. only having been recorded on 13 days. Rain fell on 174 days, as compared with 193 in 1923.

The total rainfall recorded in Jamestown for the year under review was 3·87.

VIII.—Postal, Telegraph and Telephone Services.

(*a*) POST OFFICE.

Revenue.

The total revenue from all sources for the year under review amounted to £3,514 2s. 6d., being an increase over the previous year's revenue of £81 19s. 3d. This increase is principally accounted for by the sale of postage stamps to non-resident dealers.

Expenditure.

Postal expenditure amounted to £885 9s. 9d., an increase of £112 13s. 5d. over that of 1923. This is mainly due to the printing of new stamps for the Dependency of Ascension, and carriage of mails.

The net income of the Colony for the year from all postal transactions was £2,628 12s. 9d.

Mail Matter.

The mail matter dealt with at the Post Office during the year will be gathered from the following summary :—

	1923.	1924.
From the United Kingdom and elsewhere—		
Bags of mail	225	241
Parcels	2,267	2,160
Registered articles	1,475	2,341
To the United Kingdom and elsewhere—		
Bags of mail	100	103
Parcels	573	476
Registered articles	2,238	2,073

Money and Postal Orders.

Under this head the transactions were as follows :—

	1923.	1924.
	£	£
To the United Kingdom and South Africa ..	11,836	11,188
From the United Kingdom and South Africa..	2,375	2,518

The amount of commission received on the above transactions for the year was £127 4s. 5d., a decrease of £33 14s. 8d. as compared with the previous year.

(*b*) TELEGRAPHS.

There are no inland telegraphs. There is an important cable station maintained by The Eastern Telegraph Company with a staff of 16.

(*c*) TELEPHONES.

The telephone system, which is supported by private subscribers, works satisfactorily. The receipts from messages during the year amounted to £112 10s. 2d., with an expenditure of £101 1s. 10d. The corresponding figures for the previous year were £84 9s. 3d. and £94 8s. 8d. respectively.

IX.—General Observations.

(*a*) Roads.

The rural roads were maintained during the year at a cost of £910 1s., a saving under the estimated cost of £39 19s. The amount spent during the previous year on this service was £976 8s. 6d.

The year was exceptionally dry and there was an absence of floods in March, consequently the roads did not suffer to the same extent as in previous years. The work on the roads was more in the nature of patching. The greatest difficulty in road-making in St. Helena is transport, as material has very often to be carried over considerable distances and, owing to the hilly nature of the Island, this is both laborious and slow. From the savings effected under the vote, two mules were imported from South Africa. These have proved to be of immense help in transport of road-mending material. On the whole the roads were maintained in good order, which reflects very creditably on those responsible for this service.

(*b*) Repairs to Buildings.

Of the vote of £550 for this service a sum of £494 11s. 5d. was expended during the year. This covered the wages of the artizans and labourers employed, and importation of stores. Several very necessary repairs were carried out, which included renovating " Maldivia House " and stables, painting " Plantation House," painting the Post Office, repairs to Longwood New House and stables, rebuilding a wall at the Court House, repairs to the Country School, and many other minor works.

It was not possible to import the cypress timber, for which a special grant had been voted, during the year, for renovating Government House. It is hoped that this consignment of timber will arrive early in 1925.

(*c*) Land Grants.

Thirty grants of land for flax-growing and the building of cottages were made during the year, covering a total of 31½ acres.

(*d*) Rate of Wages and Cost of Living.

The cost of living was slightly higher than in 1923, made so by a rise in price of certain essentials as will be observed from the following summary :—

	1923.	1924.
Flour	3d. per lb.	3½d.
Bread	4d. per 1½ lb.	5d.
Sugar	6d. per lb.	5d.
Dripping	1s. per lb.	1s. 4d.
Tea	2s. 3d. per lb.	2s. 3d.
Salt	2d. per lb.	2d.
Rice	3d. per lb.	3½d.

Rates of wages remained the same as in the previous year, viz., 2s. to 2s. 6d. daily. There was very little unemployment during the year, the several local flax mills, the Eastern Telegraph Company, and the Phosphate Company at Ascension having absorbed nearly all the available labourers.

(*e*) Departments and Institutions.

An expenditure of £2,414 10s. 10d. was incurred under " Works Recurrent " during the year under review, out of which £910 was expended in repair of roads and £494 in repair of buildings.

Poor Board.

The revenue of the Poor Board amounted to £1,024 16s. 6d., and the expenditure to £885 13s. 2d., as against £1,072 16s. 5d. and £930 8s. 5d. respectively in 1923.

Public Market.

The revenue of the market for the year was £37 6s. 3d. and expenditure £46 19s. 11d.

Dog Tax.

£110 10s. was collected under Dog Tax as compared with £102 in 1923.

(*f*) Miscellaneous.

It is with regret that I have to record the death, in August of the year under review, of Colonel R. F. Peel, C.M.G., after a very short illness.

It is many years since a Governor has died at his post in this Colony, the last having been the late Mr. H. R. Janish, C.M.G., in 1884.

The death of Colonel Peel came as a great shock to all classes of the community, and his loss was universally mourned. His sound administration, his great interest in agriculture, and his striking personality, soon won for him the confidence and esteem of the Island people.

The Honourable W. J. J. Arnold acted as Governor from the death of Colonel Peel until the end of the year.

Dr. F. de C. Keogh, Acting Colonial Surgeon, left the Colony on the 31st December, having completed his three years' engagement.

ASCENSION.

The administration of Ascension for the time being is undertaken by the Eastern Telegraph Company, who worthily maintain the tradition of the Admiralty administration.

The Superintendent of the Company acts as Resident Magistrate, and certain other members of the staff perform harbour and postal duties.

The revenue for Ascension for the year 1924 was £4,581 7s. 8d. and the expenditure £2,267 1s. 8d. The accounts of the Dependency are controlled at St. Helena and merged with the general accounts of the Colony.

C. H. HARPER,
Governor and Commander-in-Chief.

THE CASTLE,
ST. HELENA,
21*st May*, 1925.

COLONIAL REPORTS, ETC.

The following recent reports, etc., relating to His Majesty's Colonial Possessions have been issued, and may be obtained from the sources indicated on the title page :—

ANNUAL

No.	*Colony, etc.*	*Year.*
1225	Barbados	1923–1924
1226	Somaliland	1923
1227	Kenya Colony and Protectorate	,,
1228	Hongkong	,,
1229	Northern Territories of the Gold Coast	1923–1924
1230	Colonial Survey Committee Report	1914–1923
1231	Cayman Islands	1923
1232	Leeward Islands	1923–1924
1233	Federated Malay States	1923
1234	Mauritius	,,
1235	Straits Settlements	,,
1336	Seychelles	,,
1237	Tongan Islands Protectorate	1923–1924
1238	Brunei	1923
1239	Unfederated Malay States	,,
1240	St. Lucia	,,
1241	Bahamas	1924
1242	Falkland Islands	1923
1243	Ceylon	,,
1244	Basutoland	1924
1245	Nigeria	,,
1246	Gilbert and Ellice Islands	1923–1924
1247	Bermuda	1923
1248	Weihaiwei	1924
1249	Gambia	,,
1250	Brunei	,,

MISCELLANEOUS.

No.	*Colony, etc.*	*Subject.*
83	Southern Nigeria	Mineral Survey, 1910.
84	West Indies	Preservation of Ancient Monuments, etc.
85	Southern Nigeria	Mineral Survey, 1911.
86	Southern Nigeria	Mineral Survey, 1912.
87	Ceylon	Mineral Survey.
88	Imperial Institute	Oilseeds, Oils, etc.
89	Southern Nigeria	Mineral Survey, 1913.
90	St. Vincent	Roads and Land Settlement.
91	East Africa Protectorate	Geology and Geography of the northern part of the Protectorate.
92	Colonies—General	Fishes of the Colonies.
93	Pitcairn Island	Report on a visit to the Island by the High Commissioner for the Western Pacific.

Printed by H.M.S.O. Press, Harrow.

COLONIAL REPORTS—ANNUAL.

No. 1297.

ST. HELENA.

REPORT FOR 1925.

(For Report for 1923 see No. 1224, and for Report for 1924 see No. 1251 (Price 6d. each)).

LONDON:
PRINTED AND PUBLISHED BY HIS MAJESTY'S STATIONERY OFFICE
To be purchased directly from H.M. STATIONERY OFFICE at the following addresses:
Adastral House, Kingsway, London, W.C.2; 28, Abingdon Street, London, S.W.1;
York Street, Manchester; 1, St. Andrew's Crescent, Cardiff;
or 120, George Street, Edinburgh;
or through any Bookseller.

1926.

Price 6d. Net.

No. 1297.

ST. HELENA.

ANNUAL REPORT FOR THE YEAR 1925.

St. Helena is an island situated in the South Atlantic in latitude 15° 55′ south, and longitude 50° 42′ west. It was discovered by the Portuguese commander Juan de Nova Castella on St. Helena's Day, 21st May, 1502, during his return from India.

The Portuguese did not colonise the Island, but were successful in keeping secret its situation until 1588 when it was visited by Captain Cavendish on his return from a voyage round the world.

The Dutch were the first to make a permanent settlement on this Island. They held it from 1645 to 1690, when they abandoned it to establish themselves at the Cape of Good Hope. It was then taken possession of by the East India Company and a Charter for its administration was granted in 1661.

In 1665, according to some accounts, it was captured by the Dutch who were expelled the same year. Again they seized it in January, 1673, but only held it until May of that year when they were finally driven out by Captain Sir Richard Munden of the English Navy.

In December, 1673, a new charter was issued to the East India Company, and, with the exception of the term of Napoleon's exile, the Island remained under the Company until the 22nd April, 1834, when it was brought under the direct administration of the Crown.

An instrument entitled "The Laws and Constitution of the Island of St. Helena" was issued by Charles II in 1681. This document, bearing the seal of the East India Company, is still in the possession of the Governor of St. Helena, as are also most of the records of the Colony from 1678 to the present day.

The outstanding feature in the history of St. Helena is its connection with the exile of the Emperor Napoleon. The house occupied by him at Longwood, and the tomb in which his remains lay for 20 years till their removal in 1840, are maintained by the French Government, who were granted the freehold in 1858.

Apart from its Napoleonic associations St. Helena has an interesting history and the Island has fluctuated between extreme poverty and comparative prosperity almost since its occupation

It was chiefly celebrated in the East India Company's days as a port of call and half-way-house between India and England. Large quantities of fruit and vegetables were grown for the provisioning of visiting ships. Records show that upwards of 900 ships were entered at the port annually. The opening of the Suez Canal sounded the death-knell of St. Helena as a shipping port, and from that time shipping has gradually declined. The average number of ships now calling is about 40 per annum.

St. Helena had intimate associations with the suppression of the slave trade between West Africa and the Americas. Slave ships captured by British warships were brought into St. Helena for condemnation and a settlement for freed slaves was founded at Rupert's Bay. A few of these freed slaves took service in the Island, but about 10,000 were conveyed to the West Indies and British Guiana.

During the Boer war of 1899–1901 St. Helena was used as a place of incarceration for prisoners of war and upwards of 4,000 were detained in the Island. This necessitated a garrison of about 3,000 troops.

For a few years after the repatriation of the Boer prisoners a garrison was maintained at St. Helena. Its withdrawal in 1906–7 caused considerable hardship among the population who had learnt to depend on the garrison for their livelihood. The departure of the troops was not, however, an unmitigated evil for it threw the Island on its own resources and led to the creation of the flax industry on which the prosperity of the inhabitants now so greatly depends.

A lace industry has been established since 1907, and gives employment to a number of women and children.

A small garrison of marines is at present maintained on the Island.

Financial.

Revenue.

Revenue for the year amounted to £14,731, exclusive of any grant-in-aid; this is an increase of £2,032 over the year 1924 and £3,221 over 1923.

The increase was mainly due to large sales of flax leaves by Government and to a continued improvement in economic conditions.

There was a grant-in-aid of £7,000, but of this sum £3,000 was earmarked for the purchase of ant-resisting timber. £4,000 was granted to general revenue.

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Expenditure.

Expenditure amounted to £19,566 17*s.*, but of this sum £5,011 5*s.* 11*d.* was expenditure of an extraordinary nature, including the purchase of the ant-resisting timber referred to overleaf. Under these circumstances only £14,555 can be regarded as being normal or recurrent expenditure. This compares favourably with a normal revenue of £14,731.

Assets and Liabilities.

The statement of assets and liabilities shows an excess of assets over liabilities amounting to £4,746 15*s.* 2*d.*, as compared with £2,777 8*s.* 3*d.* at 31st December, 1924 and £260 7*s.* 2*d.* at 31st December, 1923.

Currency.

Bills of exchange on the Crown Agents issued during the year amounted to £15,889 4*s.* 1*d.*, as compared with £13,599 6*s.* 8*d.* in 1924.

There was a noticeable increase in the amount of gold in circulation during the year.

£500 in specie was exported.

Owing to the quantity of South African silver coin in circulation in the Colony, and owing to the importance of the Island's trade with South Africa, it was deemed advisable to make such coinage legal tender in St. Helena, and steps are being taken to provide that all South African gold and silver coins shall be legal tender in St. Helena.

Remittances.

£4,069 7*s.* 3*d.* was remitted to the Crown Agents during the year. Remittances were in the form of Bills of Exchange on H.M. Paymaster-General or of approved cheques. There was also a small sum in Bank of England notes and £14 in mutilated Treasury notes.

Crown Agents.

The Colony had an overdraft at the Crown Agents at the end of the year of £1,500, but the Crown Agents held cash to the credit of the Colony on Current Accounts amounting to £607, so that the Colony's indebtedness to the Crown Agents at 31st December was approximately £900, as compared with £1,900 at 31st December, 1924.

II.—Trade, Agriculture and Industries.

(*a*) Trade.

Revenue.

The Customs Revenue for the year under review amounted to £4,294 1*s.*, as against £3,985 6*s.* in 1924.

The principal increases are :—

	£	s.	d.
Wharfage dues	97	3	0
Import duties	110	4	8
Water..	35	12	0
Special War dues	44	3	10
Export wharfage	148	13	3

These increases are due to a general improvement in trade during the year, fostered by a regular demand for labour, and to larger exports of fibre and tow.

Expenditure.

Customs expenditure amounted to £500 3*s.* 2*d.*, as compared with £438 6*s.* 6*d.* in 1924. This is accounted for by the inclusion in the salary of the Collector of Customs of the emoluments paid on account of his office as Collector of Rents and Taxes.

Imports.

The value of imports amounted to £57,805, as against £51,421 in 1924, thus showing an increase of £6,384.

Imports by the Colonial Government (included in the above total) amounted to £4,206 and included a sum of £3,000 for ant-resisting timber.

The principal increases over 1924 are in :—

	£
Cigarettes and Tobacco	419
Drapery and Dry Goods	1,356
Flour	1,981
Grain	1,063
Oilman's Stores	724
Paraffin Oil	472
Rice	472
Spirits	277
Tea	355
Timber	2,822

The principal decreases are as follows :—

	£
Live animals	341
Butter and Margarine	226
Coal	1,004
Hardware, Metals, etc.	333
Machinery	1,260
Sugar	758
Wine	228

Exports.

The value of exports during the year amounted to £47,476, as against £36,160 in 1924, being an increase of £11,316.

The principal increases were :—

	£
Fibre	5,946
Tow	3,840
Rope, Cord and Twine	1,468
Specie	500

The weight of fibre and tow exported during the year was 923 tons and 420 tons respectively, as compared with 694 and 284 tons respectively in 1924, and is double the export of 1922.

There is also a rope manufactory producing binder twine, etc., from this fibre. The export during the year was 32 tons, as compared with less than one ton in 1924.

(*b*) Agriculture and Gardens.

Botley's Lay.—The revenue derived from the Government pasture lands at Botley's Lay amounted to £145 11*s.* 5*d.*, the expenditure being £94 12*s.* 9*d.* There was a credit balance to this account on 31st December amounting to £50 18*s.* 8*d.*

Maldivia Garden.—The amount derived from the sale of fruit and vegetables from Maldivia Garden amounted to £107 4*s.* 3*d.* There was an expenditure on this account of £47 7*s.* 4*d.* A credit balance of £59 16*s.* 11*d.* remained at 31st December.

Flax.—The Government reaped a valuable crop of flax during the year which yielded a gross revenue of upwards of £800.

(*c*) Industries.

There are six flax mills operating for the production of fibre and tow from the leaves of *Phormium Tenax* (New Zealand flax). These mills give employment to about 300 men and women.

A considerable impetus, it is hoped, has been given to the production of hand-made lace, for which St. Helena is so justly famous, and seed work (hand-bags, necklaces, etc.) as a result of the Colony's display at the British Empire Exhibition.

(*d*) Shipping.

The number of vessels calling at the Port during the year was 40, as compared with 34 in 1924. The total tonnage of the vessels sailing amounted to 173,450.

The ships calling were made up as follows :—

	War Ships	Merchant Ships
British	6	31
American	—	2
Norwegian	—	1

H.M.S. " Repulse " arrived in August bringing H.R.H. the Prince of Wales on his visit to the Colony.

H.M.S. " Birmingham," the flagship of the Commander-in-Chief of the Africa Station, also visited the Island during the year.

An interesting visitor was the United States schooner "Blossom." This vessel was engaged in scientific work, primarily zoological, and made a stay of upwards of two months.

Two whalers called during the year, one British and one Norwegian.

III.—Education.

There are three Government schools in the Colony with an average daily attendance of 123 boys and 127 girls. In addition to these schools there are five private schools, of which two are Government-aided; the average daily attendance in the Government-aided schools is 52 boys and 43 girls, and in the private schools 139 boys and 136 girls. There is a total daily attendance at the various schools of 620 children.

The Superintendent of Education reports that he has found the work consistently good, and a committee of ladies who examined the needlework of the girls, on the occasion when certificates for proficiency were awarded for the first time, spoke very highly of the quality of the work done.

It is hoped that during the year 1926 it may be possible to introduce some form of technical instruction for boys and later to extend the instruction for girls to include domestic economy.

The pupil teachers attended special classes during the year and received instruction in English, English literature, French, Arithmetic, Algebra, and Physiography. The Superintendent of Education reports that they were regular in their attendance, diligent in their work, and did well in the annual examination.

IV.—Government Institutions.

(*a*) Hospital.

There were 104 admissions to hospital during the year, compared with 169 during 1924. The daily average number of in-patients was 7 and of out-patients 11.

(*b*) Savings Bank.

On the 31st December of the year under review there were 219 depositors having accounts with the Government Savings Bank, as compared with 206 at 31st December, 1924.

Deposits during the year amounted to £2,754 7*s.* 7*d.*, while withdrawals amounted to £2,172 18*s.* 7*d.*; these figures compare with 1924 as follows: deposits £3,452 18*s.* 7*d.*, withdrawals £2,475 6*s.*

Stock to the value of £12,082 0*s.* 10*d.* (cost price) was held on behalf of Savings Bank depositors at 31st December.

V.—Judicial Statistics.

Supreme Court.

Three Criminal cases came up for trial in the Supreme Court, resulting in two acquittals and one conviction.

On the Civil side of the Court two small actions came up for trial, one for breach of contract and one for the recovery of land.

Police Court.

The number of complaints noted and reported to the Police or Police Magistrate during the year was 98. Eighteen cases were dealt with in the Police Court, as compared with 32 in the previous year. One case was committed to the Supreme Court for trial, one offender was bound over to keep the peace, two were discharged for want of evidence, three were remanded and twelve were convicted. The remainder of the 98 cases handled by the Police did not necessitate action in the Police Court.

Comparative statement of Police Court convictions over a period of five years is as follows :—

	1921.	1922.	1923.	1924.	1925.
Assaults and other offences against the person ..	5	15	11	4	2
Malicious damage to property	4	7	6	3	2
Offences against the Highways, etc	33	5	4	6	1
Offences against the person (other than malicious) ..	2	12	5	3	1
Other offences	18	13	4	2	6
	62	52	30	18	12

The Police Force consists of a sergeant and five men. One extra constable was taken on the strength for patrol work in the south-east part of the Island. Twelve special constables were engaged for duty during the visit of H.R.H. the Prince of Wales.

Gaol.

The number of persons committed to the gaol during the year was 8, as compared with 16 in 1924. Of these 8, five were committed for offences and three were on remand.

One prisoner was pardoned by His Excellency the Governor on the occasion of the visit of H.R.H. the Prince of Wales.

VI.—Legislation.

Eight Ordinances were promulgated during the year namely :—

No. 1. Elementary Education (Amendment).
No. 2. Savings Bank (Amendment).

No. 3. Firearms.
No. 4. Wireless Telegraphy (Ascension).
No. 5. Supplementary Expenditure 1924.
No. 6. War Taxation Customs (Amendment).
No. 7. Appropriation Ordinance 1925.
No. 8. Liquor Licence (Amendment).

No. 1 supersedes Ordinance No. 2 of 1924.

No. 2 amends the Savings Bank Ordinance No. 2 of 1895 and provides for the investment of deposits and the disposal of income from securities. It further provides new Savings Bank rules.

No. 3 requires that all persons desirous of keeping firearms shall obtain a certificate of permission to keep such firearms.

No. 4 provides for the control of Wireless Telegraphy at Ascension Island.

No. 5 provides for appropriation for supplementary expenditure for 1924.

No. 6, an extension of the former War Taxation Customs Ordinance.

No. 7 provides for appropriation for expenditure for 1925.

No. 8 amends the Liquor Ordinance of 1907, and regulates the hours of the opening and closing of licensed premises and provides for exemption on special occasions.

VII.—Vital Statistics.

(*a*) Population.

The estimated civil population at 31st December was 3,699, as compared with 3,703 at 31st December, 1924.

Deaths during the year numbered 44 against 38 in 1924. This gives a death-rate of 12·16 per 1,000, as compared with 10·23 in 1924.

Births registered numbered 111 (this does not include 3 still-born). The figures for 1924 were 106 and 4 still-born. The birth-rate is therefore 30·00 per 1,000 for 1925 and 28·62 for 1924.

There were 29 marriages in 1925, as compared with 21 in 1924.

(*b*) Public Health.

The general health of the community has been satisfactory. A widespread epidemic of influenza occurred in February and March. Two deaths were attributable to this epidemic.

There was a satisfactory fall in the rate of infant mortality.

The water and drainage systems have proved satisfactory, and all bakeries and slaughter-houses have been inspected by the Medical Officer who reports that they satisfy the requirements of Government.

There were no prosecutions under the Board of Health Ordinance during the year.

(*c*) CLIMATE.

Meteorological Statistics.

Barometer.—The mean barometric pressure for the second half of the year was 952·5 mb (28·1 ins.). This was the same as for the whole of the year 1924.

Data are not available for the first half of the year as the barometer was in England for adjustment and repair.

Thermometer.—The mean temperature at Hutts Gate was 60·3° which is identical with 1924, but the record is not complete owing to the destruction of instruments. New instruments have been fitted and a complete record, it is hoped, will be available for 1926.

Rainfall.—The rainfall at Hutts Gate was 38 inches compared with 33·16 in 1924.

The rainfall in Jamestown was 6 inches as compared with 3·87 in 1924. It will be observed that 1925 was considerably wetter than the preceding year which was unusually dry.

VIII.—Post, Telegraph and Telephone Services.

(*a*) POST OFFICE.

Revenue.

The total revenue from all sources for the year under review amounted to £2,252 18*s.* 1*d.*, being a decrease of £1,261 4*s.* 5*d.* This decrease is principally accounted for by fewer orders having been received from non-resident stamp dealers.

Expenditure.

Postal expenditure amounted to £434 17*s.* 8*d.*, a decrease of £450 12*s.* 1*d.* This is mainly due to a decrease in the printing of new stamps.

The net income of the Colony for the year from all postal transactions was £1,818 0*s.* 5*d.*

Mail Matter.

The mail matter dealt with at the Post Office during the year will be gathered from the following summary :—

From the United Kingdom and elsewhere :

	1924.	1925.
Bags of Mail	241	282
Parcels	2,160	2,207
Registered Articles	2,341	1,453
To the United Kingdom and elsewhere :		
Bags of Mail	103	117
Parcels	476	473
Registered Articles	2,073	2,384

Money and Postal Orders.

Under this head the transactions were as follows :—

	1924.	1925.
	£	£
To the United Kingdom and South Africa	11,188	10,364
From the United Kingdom and South Africa	2,518	2,073

The amount of commission received on the above transactions for the year was £132 17*s.* 9*d.*, an increase of £5 13*s.* 4*d.*, as compared with the previous year.

(*b*) TELEGRAPHS.

There are no inland telegraphs. There is, however, an important cable station maintained by the Eastern Telegraph Company where messages are accepted for transmission to all parts of the world.

(*c*) TELEPHONES.

A telephone system is maintained by private subscribers. The rates for telephone service are £5 per instrument per annum.

IX.—General Observations.

(*a*) REPAIRS TO BUILDINGS.

The biggest undertaking under this sub-head was the repair, renovation and refurnishing of Government House.

It was many years since repairs or refurnishing to any great extent had been undertaken at Government House, with the result that considerable dilapidation and decay had taken place, and white ants had made serious inroads into all the soft wood.

A sum of £265 was spent on repairs and renovations and £680 on refurnishing. All the work of repair was undertaken by the local staff of the Public Works Department under the direction of the Clerk of Works and the result was eminently satisfactory.

It was intended that the whole of the woodwork of the House should be replaced by ant-resisting timber, but in view of the fact that H.R.H. the Prince of Wales was visiting the Island in the month of August, it was considered inadvisable to commence work on a large scale at Government House before the visit of His Royal Highness. It was, therefore, decided to carry out only such repairs as were absolutely essential and to leave the remainder to be undertaken subsequently.

In addition to the foregoing all Government buildings were maintained at their usual standard and considerable internal painting was done at the Castle.

(*b*) ROADS, STREETS AND BRIDGES.

Owing to the favourable weather experienced during the year under review the work on rural roads was chiefly in the nature of patching work.

The roadway at "Woody Ridge" from below "Teutonic Hall" to the road above "Alarm Hill" received special attention.

A fall of rocks and earth in the New road and in Napoleon street completely blocked the roads in both of these places; prompt attention was, however, given to them and little inconvenience was caused.

(c) Departments and Institutions.

Leper Establishment.

This establishment was closed down in 1925 as no cases of leprosy now exist in the Colony.

Crown Property.

Six meetings of the Commissioners of Crown Property were held during the year and 19 grants of land for flax growing and gardens were made.

In addition to these grants applications from the St. Helena Corporation were considered for the occupation of areas of Crown waste land for flax cultivation.

Poor Board.

The Revenue accruing to the Board of Guardians amounted to £1,089 14*s.* 10*d.*, as compared with £1,024 16*s.* 6*d.* in 1924.

Expenditure amounted to £902 13*s.* 6d., as compared with £885 13*s.* 2*d.* in 1924.

Public Market.

		£	s.	d.			£	s.	d.
Revenue	1924	37	6	3	1925	..	29	12	2
Expenditure	1924	46	19	11	1925	..	24	8	11

Appointments and Retirements.

Appointments.—Charles Henry Harper, C.M.G., O.B.E., assumed the administration of the Government on 2nd February, in succession to the late Colonel R. F. Peel, C.M.G. Robert Peploe Cartwright, M.B., Ch.B. was appointed Assistant Colonial Surgeon and arrived in the island on 2nd February. On 18th August this officer was appointed Colonial Surgeon in succession to the late W. J. J. Arnold, M.B., C.M.G.

Lieutenant-Colonel E. L. Salier, M.C. was appointed Controller of Labour in the Dependency of Ascension with effect from 12th September.

Miss E. F. Scott was appointed Sister at the Civil Hospital with effect from 13th October and as Acting Sister-in-Charge from 1st November.

Miss M. Guidera was appointed Sister at the Civil Hospital with effect from 6th December.

Retirements.—Dr. F. de C. Keogh, Assistant Colonial Surgeon, resigned.

Miss S. C. Burd, Sister, Civil Hospital. Termination of Contract.
Miss S. Hawken ,, ,, ,, resigned.
Miss E. Taylor-Smith ,, ,, ,,
Miss M.B. Thompson, Matron ,, invalided
A. L. C. Hands, Esq., M.B.E., Chief Clerk ,,

OBITUARY.

It is with the deepest regret that the death is recorded of the late Colonial Surgeon Dr. W. J. J. Arnold, C.M.G., who died suddenly on 28th January.

Dr. Arnold had given a life-time of devoted service to the Colony as medical officer, and, on three occasions, he had acted as Governor. He had gained the admiration and affection of all sections of the community, by whom his loss is greatly felt. A public subscription has been started to erect a monument in his memory.

Dr. Arnold was awarded a Companionship of the Most Distinguished Order of St. Michael and St. George in the New Year's Honours List a few days before his death.

THE ROYAL VISIT.

On the 3rd August, in the late afternoon, H.R.H. the Prince of Wales arrived at St. Helena on his voyage from South Africa to South America. His Royal Highness landed the next morning and remained ashore till the afternoon of the following day, making his headquarters at Government House.

There was a mass meeting of the inhabitants to greet the Prince on landing, and an address of welcome was presented, to which His Royal Highness replied, referring in sympathetic terms to the history of the Island. The Prince visited the Castle and inspected some of the ancient records and a display of the Island lace-work, accepting some of the lace as a gift from the women of the Island. During the afternoon the Prince rode to Longwood, visiting Napoleon's tomb and other places of historic interest. In the evening there was a dinner followed by a dance at Government House at which His Royal Highness was present.

The next morning the Prince rode about the Island, planting a tree at the tomb and inspecting some of the flax-mills ; in the afternoon His Royal Highness attended a garden party at the Castle, afterwards embarking.

The appearance of H.M.S. " Repulse," on which the Prince was making his tour, was an event of local interest, as she is the largest ship that has visited St. Helena. A large number of inhabitants went on board and greatly appreciated the welcome given them. The ship's band played each day in the town square to the delight of a music-loving population.

It is no exaggeration to say that the days which the Prince spent at St. Helena were days of unbounded enthusiasm and will be remembered as the happiest and proudest in the Island's history.

ASCENSION.

The Superintendent of the Eastern Telegraph Company at Ascension acts as Resident Magistrate of the Dependency and has also been appointed a member of the Executive Council of St. Helena.

The Ascension Island Phosphate and Guano Company, which holds a concession for the working of the phosphate and guano deposits in the Island, continued work during the year.

A few turtles were exported from the Island during the year; but this industry has not yet regained its former importance.

Ascension Statistics.

Population.

Men	277
Women	27
Children	24
Total	328

Shipping.

Mail Boats—In	13
„ „ —Out	13
British Men-of-War	1
Other Vessels	5
	32

Hospital.

In-patients	115
Out-patients	177

Rainfall at Green Mountain 17·18 inches. The average for the last ten years is 21·94. The rainfall at Georgetown is negligible.

Temperature—Maximum 92° F.
„ Minimum 68° F.

There are 500 sheep on the Island, 26 head of cattle, 10 pigs and a few horses and mules.

The water supply, which depends on catchments at the Mountain, was very precarious during the year and the rainfall was insufficient to fill the tanks.

The two large tanks known as Dampier's (588 tons) and Bates (284 tons) are being repaired in order that advantage may be taken of the occasional heavy rains to store water which at these periods runs to waste.

H. J. PINK,

Colonial Treasurer.

THE CASTLE,

1*st May*, 1926.

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ST. HELENA.

REPORT FOR **1926.**

(For Report for 1924 see No. 1251, and for Report for 1925 see No. 1297 (Price 6d. each.))

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No. 1343.

ST. HELENA.

ANNUAL REPORT FOR THE YEAR 1926.

HISTORICAL.

St. Helena was discovered by the Portuguese Commander Juan de Nova Castella on St. Helena's day, 21st May, 1502, during his return from India with a squadron of three Portuguese vessels.

The Portuguese did not colonise the Island but were satisfied in keeping secret its situation until 1588, when it was visited by Captain Cavendish on his return from a voyage round the world.

The Dutch entered into possession of the Island and held it from 1645 to 1690, when they preferred to establish themselves at the Cape of Good Hope. St. Helena was then occupied by the East India Company and a Charter for its administration was granted in 1661.

In 1665, according to some accounts, the Island was captured by the Dutch, who were expelled the same year. Again they seized it in January, 1673, but only held it until May of that year when they were finally driven out by Captain Sir Richard Munden of the King's Navy.

In December, 1673, a new Charter was issued to the East India Company and, with the exception of the term of Napoleon's exile, the Island remained under the Company until the 22nd April, 1834, when it was brought under the direct administration of the Crown.

An instrument entitled "The Laws and Constitution of the Island of St. Helena" was issued by Charles II in 1681. This document, bearing the seal of the East India Company, is still in the possession of the Governor of St. Helena, as are also the records of the Colony from 1678 to the present day.

The outstanding feature in the history of St. Helena is its connection with the exile of the Emperor Napoleon. The house occupied by him at Longwood, and the tomb in which his remains lay for 20 years till their removal in 1840, are maintained by the French Government, who were granted the freehold in 1858.

Apart from its Napoleonic associations St. Helena has an interesting history and the Island has fluctuated between extreme poverty and comparative prosperity almost since its occupation.

It was chiefly celebrated in the East India Company's days as a port of call and half-way house between India and England. Large quantities of fruit and vegetables were grown for the provisioning of ships calling. Records show that upwards of 900 ships were entered at the port annually. The opening of the Suez

Canal sounded the death-knell of St. Helena as a shipping port and from that time shipping has gradually declined. The average number of ships now calling is about 40 per annum.

St. Helena has intimate associations with the suppression of the slave trade between West Africa and the Americas.

Slave ships captured by British warships were brought into St. Helena for condemnation, and a settlement for freed slaves was founded at Rupert's Bay. A few took service in the Island but about 10,000 were conveyed to the West Indies and British Guiana.

During the Boer war of 1899-1901 St. Helena was used as a place of incarceration for prisoners of war, and upwards of 4,000 were detained in the Island. This necessitated a garrison of about 3,000 troops.

For a few years after the repatriation of the Boer prisoners a garrison was maintained at St. Helena. Its withdrawal in 1906-7 caused considerable hardship among the population, who had learnt to depend on the garrison for their livelihood. The departure of the troops was not, however, an unmixed evil for it threw the Island on its own resources and led to the creation of the flax industry on which the prosperity of the inhabitants now so greatly depends.

A lace industry has been established since 1907, and gives employment to a number of women and children.

St. Helena was visited in 1910 by His Royal Highness the Duke of Connaught on his way to open the first Parliament of the Union of South Africa, and in 1925 it had the honour of a visit from His Royal Highness the Prince of Wales, who remained for two days on his way from South Africa to South America.

Description.

St. Helena lies in latitude 15.55 South and longitude 5.42 West. It is about 950 miles due south of the Equator, 4,000 miles from England, and 1,700 miles from Cape Town. The voyage from England occupies 17 days, and from Cape Town 6 days.

The area of the Island is 47 square miles; there are about 60 miles of roads.

The aspect of St. Helena from the sea is forbidding. It rises abruptly in bare cliffs, which vary in height from 450 to 2,400 feet. The face of this wall of rock is cut by deep narrow gorges.

Above the cliffs the ground rises in a fairly regular slope, but with numerous valleys, to a ridge lying across the middle of the Island. This ridge is serrated in form; its general altitude is about 2,000 feet, but two of its peaks, easily accessible and affording magnificent views, rise to 2,700 feet.

The Island has been divided into three zones, "Coast," "Middle," and "Central."

The " Coast " zone extends from about a mile to a mile and a-half round the Island. Except in some of the valleys, where fruit and vegetables may be grown, the only vegetation is prickly pear.

The " Middle " zone, at an altitude of 400 to 1,800 feet, succeeds the " Coast " zone. The hills and valleys and pleasing scenery in the higher levels of this area are suggestive of parts of Wales and Devon. Oaks, Scotch pines, gorse and blackberries flourish there, and in 1926 at Plantation during a prolonged winter some primroses made their appearance. It is the pleasantest part of the Island in which to live and it contains Plantation (Government House), Bishopsholme, Rosemary Hall, Princes Lodge, Longwood, and other residences.

The "Central " zone, about three miles long by two miles wide, is ground each side of the central ridge, the highest ground in the Island. In some parts the ground is precipitous, in others undulating with grassy slopes.

The population of the Island is about 3,700, of whom about 1,500 live in Jamestown, the capital, situated in the " Coast " zone, while the rest dwell in the " country " as the other two zones are locally designated.

Transport is by horse, either driven or ridden. Owing to the hilly nature of the country the rate of progress is slow, but time is rarely of the essence of any undertaking in St. Helena. The drive, for instance, from the town to Plantation or to Longwood, where the golf links are, or from Plantation to Longwood, in each case a distance of five miles, occupies an hour and a-quarter. The introduction of motor transport is under consideration.

Communications.

There are regular mails outward and homeward by Union-Castle Liners once a month, and occasional ships also bring or take mails.

Cable connection exists with all parts of the world. The charges are, for ordinary telegrams 2*s*. a word, for deferred telegrams 1*s*. a word, and for deferred letter telegrams 10*s*. for twenty words and 6*d*. for each word in excess.

There is no internal post but there is a fairly efficient telephone service.

Industries, Trade, Etc.

The cultivation of New Zealand flax is the staple industry of the Island. The flax is grown by large landowners and small-holders, while the milling of the flax is in the hands of four firms.

There is a certain amount of general farming, but owing to the development of the flax industry in recent years it has tended to decrease.

The Colony depends on the Imperial Treasury for an annual grant-in-aid of about £2,500 to balance its budget.

CLIMATE.

Situated far from any land-mass, in the heart of the South-East Trades, and surrounded by the cool waters of the South Atlantic current, St. Helena possesses a mild and equable climate.

There are four seasons in the year, which, however, are not so sharply differentiated as they are in England. Spring is from October to December, summer from January to March, autumn from April to June, winter from July to September.

The length of day varies from 13 hours on 21st December, to 11 hours on 21st June.

The sun is vertical on 5th February and on 6th November.

The temperature in the "Coast" zone ranges in summer between 68 degrees and 84 degrees and in winter between 57 degrees and 70 degrees. In the country at about 2,000 feet it is 10 degrees cooler.

In Jamestown, during summer, the heat is sometimes apt to be oppressive. In the country, during winter, fires are often necessary.

The atmosphere is humid; the monthly mean at 9 a.m. in the country varies from 89 degrees in January to 92 degrees in September.

The average annual rainfall in Jamestown is about 9 inches and the average number of raindays in the year is about 90. In the country at Plantation, 1,650 feet, the annual average of rainfall over 15 years is 38½ inches, and the average number of raindays 211. On two occasions during the 15 years the greatest fall in 24 hours amounted to 2 inches; apart from those two occasions the greatest fall did not exceed 1½ inches.

At Plantation the driest months are September to January inclusive, when the average rainfall does not exceed 3 inches each month; the lowest record being .15 and the highest 4.66, both in September. The wettest months are March, May, June, and July when the average is between 4 and 5 inches: the lowest record being 1.26 in March and the highest being 8.92 in July.

The average force of the wind, which blows almost every day in the year, is 14 miles per hour. On only one occasion in the last 30 years has the wind attained the velocity of 50 miles per hour.

Thunderstorms are of very rare occurrence, the last two recorded being in 1874 and 1888.

Earthquakes in the formidable sense are unknown. Only four "tremors" have been put on record in 400 years.

HEALTH.

"St. Helena," in the words of Sir Daniel Morris, Adviser in Tropical Agriculture to the Secretary of State for the Colonies,

" stands pre-eminent in possessing a remarkably fine and healthy climate. . . . . In respect to its climate I regard St. Helena as a most valuable station for recruiting health."

The Island is completely free from any of the ills associated with tropical or sub-tropical countries. In particular the climate seems an excellent one for young children or elderly persons. It is also considered beneficial for tubercular or lung trouble.

It is generally held that after three or four years a change of environment is desirable.

No particular precautions are needed. The sun very rarely causes any inconvenience, though on occasions during the summer in exceptional seasons of prolonged drought the direct solar heat may be intense. In the last 25 years there has been only one case of fatal result from the effect of sun.

About February or March an epidemic of influenza often visits the Island; it attacks chiefly the indigenous population and its consequences are rarely of serious proportion.

The death-rate for the 10 years ending 1926 was 10.47 per 1,000.

St. Helena as a Place of Residence.

There is little opening for labour or capital, and no one should come to St. Helena for employment except under agreement.

For persons possessed of moderate private means the Island has possible attractions as a place of residence. Retired officials and generally persons with professional or technical qualifications might find occasional work to occupy some of their time. Anyone with a taste for botany, geology, forestry, gardening or fruit-growing on a small scale, would find much to interest him on the Island.

About 50 families, official, clergy, business, Eastern Telegraph Company, and private residents, go to make up local society. The social life is, therefore, that of a small community and is unpretentious.

The standard of recreation is of the kind to appeal to the average person. There is golf, tennis, cricket, in the winter months occasional pheasant and partridge shooting, and some sea-fishing.

The St. Helenians are an attractive people. They are of pleasant appearance, of good manners, soft-spoken, and peaceful. Visitors are greatly impressed with their civility and the general courtesy shown by young and old.

The women are good at lace and needlework. They can be trained into good servants and some find employment in South Africa and occasionally in England.

With its English speech, its English scenery, its English ways, St. Helena might well seem a part of England. Life passes amid picturesque surroundings in quiet and uneventful fashion, similar, one imagines, to life in a retired country district in England before the advent of railways. Residents in St. Helena, as in most small

communities, are to some extent dependent on their own resources for their diversions and for filling their time.

Accommodation.

There is no hotel on the Island but there is a boarding-house in Jamestown where visitors frequently stay for brief periods.

There are houses in the country, available from time to time for renting. It is advisable that persons intending to reside in St. Helena should make inquiries beforehand as to vacant houses and bungalows.

The rent of a house with garden is about £3 to £4 a month, unfurnished, and from £5 to £6 a month partially furnished.

Cost of Living.

The cost of living is cheaper than in England. Customs duties are light and rating also is low, at present 5*d*. in the pound.

Wages for indoor servants are from 15*s*. to 30*s*. a month and board. Men working in the garden or stables earn about 2*s*. 6*d*. a day.

A horse and carriage is in most cases a necessity and can be hired by the year. Including wages and cost of hire, a horse and carriage can be maintained for about £90 a year.

The charges for occasional hiring are 15*s*. for a whole day, 10*s*. for half a day, and £1 1s. for the evening.

Two people could live comfortably and in full enjoyment of all the Island has to offer on £35 to £40 a month. This estimate covers hire and maintenance of horse and carriage, wages of groom-gardener, and of two indoor servants, house rent, and generally all local expenses.

With a more limited range of social activity and with stricter housekeeping two people could live within £250 to £300 a year for local expenses. This sum does not include the upkeep or occasional hire of a horse and carriage.

(See also page 16.)

Education.

There are no facilities locally for the education of English children, who have to be sent either to South Africa or to England for their schooling.

Outfit.

Clothes worn in England during spring and a warm summer will be found suitable. Woollen sweaters and jumpers are necessary, and so also is stout footwear.

General.

Apart from the Government Savings Bank there are no banking facilities. Government, however, issues Bills of Exchange on the Crown Agents for the Colonies at low rates.

Interesting books on the Island are : Brooke's " History ", published in 1808; Melliss' " St. Helena ", published in 1875, giving an historical and scientific account of the Island; Jackson's " St. Helena ", published in 1903; Norwood Young's " Napoleon in Exile in St. Helena ", two volumes, published in 1915.

ASCENSION ISLAND.

Ascension Island, lying in latitude 7.53 South and longitude 14.18 West, about 700 miles north-west of St. Helena, was discovered by the Portuguese on 20th May, 1501. It became noted for its abundance of sea fowl and excellent turtle, the latter " freeing sailors entirely from the scurvy and other diseases of the blood."

The Island was occupied by the British in 1815 at the time Napoleon was a prisoner in St. Helena. In 1821 the garrison was formed of marines, and the Admiralty continued control over the Island until 12th September, 1922, when Ascension became a Dependency of St. Helena.

At the present time the Eastern Telegraph Company have a station there, and officers of the Company are invested with administrative powers.

A company has been formed to exploit the guano and phosphate deposits on the Island, but the export has not yet assumed large proportions.

Ascension has an area of 34 square miles; it is of volcanic origin, and its appearance from the sea is rugged and desolate. Green Mountain, however, 2,800 feet high, relieves with its vegetation the barren and depressing aspect of the larger part of the Island, and affords pasture for a certain number of sheep and cattle.

The pure and dry air of Ascension has given its climate a reputation for being singularly healthy.

I.—FINANCIAL.

Revenue.

Revenue for the year amounted to £21,444 exclusive of any grant-in-aid; this is an increase of £6,713 over 1925.

This increase was mainly due to the absorption by the Colonial Government of the outstanding assets of the Government Flax Mill, and bringing back into revenue the Cypress timber purchased in 1925.

There was a grant-in-aid of £2,500 to general revenue.

Expenditure.

Expenditure amounted to £23,154, but of this sum £7,727 was expenditure of an extraordinary nature and represents the writing off of doubtful assets. In these circumstances only £15,427 can be regarded as normal expenditure. The revenue, exclusive of the

extraordinary revenue mentioned above, but including grant-in-aid, can be read as:—

	£
Total Revenue	23,944
Less extraordinary revenue. Flax Mill assets, etc.	8,323
Revenue including grant-in-aid	15,621
Normal expenditure	15,427
Surplus	£194

Assets and Liabilities.

The statement of Assets and Liabiilities after writing off doubtful assets to the amount of over £7,000 shows an excess of Assets over Liabilities amounting to £4,955 11*s*. 8*d*.

Currency.

Bills of Exchange on the Crown Agents for the Colonies, issued during the year, amounted to £15,794, as compared with £15,889 in the previous year.

£1,000 in specie was exported during the year.

By an Order in Council dated 12th October, 1925, brought into force in St. Helena on 1st January, 1926, South African currency was made legal tender in St. Helena and such currency is now acceptable on the same conditions as sterling currency.

Remittances.

£3,588 was remitted to the Crown Agents during the year chiefly in the form of Bills on His Majesty's Paymaster-General.

Crown Agents for the Colonies.

The Colony had an overdraft at the Crown Agents at the end of the year amounting to £500, but the Crown Agents held cash to the credit of the Colony on Current Account to the amount of £530, so that actually the Colony had a credit balance on 31st December, 1926, of £30.

The following figures show the state of the Colony's overdraft and cash balance at Crown Agents for the past six years:—

	Overdraft. £	*Cash balance on current account.*
31st December, 1922	8,100	Cr. £165
31st December, 1923	7,500	Dr. £501
31st December, 1924	1,500	Dr. £478
31st December, 1925	1,500	Cr. £607
31st December, 1926	500	Cr. £530

II.—Trade, Agriculture and Industries.

(*a*) TRADE.

The Customs revenue collected during 1926 amounted to £4,999 18*s*. 9*d*. as against £4,294 1*s*. in 1925, showing a substantial increase of £705 17*s*. 9*d*. An increase of revenue, estimated at £400, was anticipated on the enactment of the Customs (Consolidation) Ordinance No. 1 of 1926. This Ordinance came into operation on the 22nd of March. It embodied the war taxation dues on spirits, wines, and tobacco, and also imposed a further increase of duty.

Increases of revenue appear under :—

Wharfage on Imports £154 19*s*. 8*d*., mainly due to a two years' supply of paraffin oil being imported direct from the United States of America.

Duty on Imports £820 10*s*. 3*d*. The increased duty mentioned above partly accounts for this increase, while 322 gallons of spirits were cleared from bond in excess of 1925 consumption. It is peculiar to note that the consumption of cigarettes fell off by 551 lb. in 1926, whilst tobacco increased by 515 lb.

Tonnage dues £65 3*s*. 6*d*., due to Admiralty coal arriving on which 1*s*. per ton was paid. No Admiralty coal was imported in 1925.

Ad valorem duty £39 11*s*. There being a regular demand for labour, better conditions prevailed and more luxuries were indulged in.

Decrease of revenue is found under "*Permits*" £4 4*s*., "*Special War Dues*" £281 13*s*. 8*d*., and "*Export Wharfage*" £87 16*s*. 8*d*. The Special War Dues Ordinance being repealed by Customs (Consolidation) Ordinance No. 1 of 1926 resulted in the dues being absorbed in duty on imports; and one flax mill suspending operations during the year lessened the export wharfage.

Expenditure.

Customs expenditure amounted to £521 2*s*. 3*d*., as compared with £500 3*s*. 2*d*. in 1925. The increase is due to transfer of personal bonus from "Miscellaneous" to "Personal Emoluments."

Imports.

The value of imports during 1926 amounted to £56,040 as against £57,805 in 1925, showing a decrease of £1,765.

This total includes Government imports exclusive of munitions of war, to the amount of £598.

The principal increases in value over 1925 are in :—

	£
Beef and Pork (salt)	326
Boats	800
Butter and Margarine	158
Hardware, metals, &c.	898
Oil, paraffin	1,603
Tea	240

The principal decreases are :—

	£
Live animals	126
Drapery and dry goods	565
Flour	1,268
Machinery	218
Rice	403
Timber	2,775
Stationery	322
Sugar	1,405

Exports.

The value of exports during 1926 amounted to £39,977 as against £47,476 in 1925, showing a decrease of £7,499.

The principal increases were :—

	£
Rope, cord, and twine	605
Specie	500

and decrease :—

	£
Fibre and tow	7,593

The weight of fibre and tow exported during the year was 751 tons and 417 tons respectively, as compared with 923 tons and 420 tons respectively, in 1925. This is due to one mill suspending operations during 1926.

It has been customary in the past to count live stock for Ascension Island as an export. This has been deleted in the current report.

(*b*) AGRICULTURE AND GARDENS.

Botley's Lay.—The revenue derived from the Government pasture lands at Botley's Lay or Common amounted to £98 1*s*. 8*d*., the expenditure being £93 11*s*. 2*d*. The balance standing to the credit of this fund at 31st December was £56 16*s*. 6*d*.

Maldivia Garden.—The amount derived from the sale of fruit and vegetables from Maldivia Garden, situated at Jamestown, amounted to £110 8*s*. 2*d*., against an expenditure of £108 8*s*. 9*d*. The balance standing to the credit of this fund at 31st December was £62 10*s*. 7*d*.

Flax.—A small crop only of Government flax was harvested in 1926 as the bulk of Government-owned flax was reaped in 1925. Flax seed to the value of £243 and flax suckers to the value of £20 was exported during the year.

General.—The yield of forage, etc., from Government lands was very satisfactory.

The lawns, fencing and grounds of Government House were maintained in excellent order and the flower-beds kept up to the very high standard set in 1925 when they received special attention.

Destruction of White Ants.—During the year experiments were undertaken with a view to checking the serious depredations of white ants. Some useful information is being collected on the habits of these ants and a certain amount of success has attended the use of various preparations for their destruction.

(*c*) INDUSTRIES.

There are six flax mills operating for the extraction of fibre and tow from the leaves of *Phormium Tenax* (New Zealand flax). There is also a factory for the manufacture of binder twine and rope. These industries give employment to about 500 men and women.

The area under flax cultivation amounts to approximately 1,800 acres.

2. Experiments are being made in connection with the breeding and rearing of valuable fur-bearing rabbits and 26 stock rabbits were imported in the latter part of the year. This experiment is not sufficiently far advanced to make any report upon at the moment, but the stock had increased to about 60 animals at the end of the year.

3. The demand for lace has been maintained and the quality of the work has been kept at its usual high standard.

(*d*) SHIPPING.

The number of vessels calling at the Port during the year was 40, being the same number as in 1925. The total tonnage entering and clearing the Port was 164,327 as compared with 173,450 in 1925.

The vessels calling were made up as follows :—

British war ships	4
British merchant ships	34
German surveying vessel	1
American yacht	1

Normal mail service was maintained throughout the year.

III.—Education.

The total number of children under instruction is 674. This is an increase of 54 as compared with 1925.

It was not possible during the year to commence the technical instruction mentioned in the 1925 Report, owing partly to the difficulty of finding accommodation for the classes. This difficulty has been overcome and the scheme will now go forward.

The Superintendent of Education reports that the quarterly and annual examinations showed a satisfactory state of affairs; his report on the pupil teachers is equally satisfactory.

For the first time in its history a lady member was appointed to the Board of Education. This lady, at the end of the year, examined the girls' needlework and knitting and awarded certificates.

His Excellency the Governor visited each of the schools at the end of the year and was pleased to place on record his appreciation of the work being done by the teaching staff.

IV.—Government Institutions.

(*a*) Hospital.

There were 132 admissions to hospital during the year, compared with 104 during 1925. The daily average number of in-patients was 8, and of out-patients 18.

A general anaesthetic was administered in 23 cases.

Two cases of beri-beri (both Lascars), were admitted to hospital from a ship; both of these patients died within five days of their admission.

(*b*) Savings Bank.

There were 243 depositors having accounts with the Government Savings Bank at 31st December, 1926, as compared with 219 at 31st December, 1925.

Deposits during the year amounted to £2,412; deposits in 1925 were £2,754 7*s*. 7*d*.

Withdrawals during the year totalled £2,713 1*s*. 8½*d*., as compared with £2,172 18s. 7*d*. in 1925.

Stock to the value of £12,082 0*s*. 10*d*. (cost price) was held on behalf of Savings Bank depositors at 31st December, 1926.

V.—Judicial Statistics.

Supreme Court.

Five criminal cases came up for trial, and of these, two cases were committed from Ascension. The results of these cases were three convictions and two acquittals.

Three civil actions were tried, one for the recovery of land and two for recovery of debt.

There were sundry applications for probate and administration.

POLICE COURT.

Forty-three cases were dealt with in this Court as compared with eighteen in 1925 and there were thirty-four convictions as compared with twelve in the previous year. These figures do not necessarily indicate an increase in crime as many of the cases were infringements of Education and Revenue Regulations.

POLICE.

The police performed their duties in a satisfactory manner throughout the year. There was no change in the personnel.

The rural police have been placed in charge of the country telephone stations in order that they may be in telephonic communication with the remainder of the Island.

GAOL.

The number of prisoners committed to gaol during the year under review was 9, and 3 were placed under remand, giving a total of 12, an increase of 4 compared with the previous year. Ten were discharged during the year, two prisoners remaining in gaol on 31st December, 1926.

The total cost of the gaol during the year was £114 10*s*. 4*d*., an increase of £27 18*s*. over the expenditure of 1925, which is accounted for by the increase in the number of prisoners.

There has been no sickness during the year under review.

VI.—Legislation.

Eleven Ordinances were promulgated in 1926, being :—

No. 1. *The Customs (Consolidation) Ordinance.*—This is a consolidation of the various enactments relating to Customs dues.

No. 2. *The Commissions of Enquiry Ordinance.*—This Ordinance enables the Governor to appoint a commission to inquire into any subject matter which His Excellency may consider desirable in the public interest.

No. 3 *The Road Tax (Repeal) Ordinance.*—This is an Ordinance repealing the imposition of a road tax on all males in the Colony between the ages of 18 and 60 years.

No. 4. *The Registration (Amendment) Ordinance.*—This Ordinance is (*a*) To constitute the Office of Registrar-General of Births, Marriages and Deaths for the Colony, with a separate office, and (*b*) to provide for a duplicate set of records, including those of the Dependency of Ascension.

No. 5. *The Ascension Island Workmens' Protection Ordinance.*—The purpose of this Ordinance is to safeguard the interests of labour imported into the Island of Ascension.

No. 6.—*The Appropriation Ordinance for the Current year.*

No. 7. *The Police Court (Fees) Ordinance.*

No. 8. *The Supplementary Expenditure* (1925) *Ordinance.*

No. 9. *The Local Legislation (Declaratory) Ordinance.*—This measure constitutes the preliminary step towards the preparation of a Revised Edition of the Ordinances.

No. 10. *The new Edition of the Ordinances Ordinance*, approving the issue of a Revised Edition of the Ordinances.

No. 11. *The Reciprocal Judgments Enforcements Ordinance.*—This is in the nature of reciprocal legislation based on Part II of the Administration of Justice Act, 1920, of England.

VII.—Vital Statistics.

(*a*) Population.

The estimated civil population on the 31st December, was 3,728, as compared with 3,699 at 31st December, 1925.

Deaths during the year numbered 67 (including three seamen landed for hospital treatment) as against 44 in 1925. The death-rate (excluding the three seamen) works out at 17.97 per 1,000 as compared with 12.16 per 1,000 in 1925.

Births registered numbered 111 (not including three still-born). These figures are identical with those of 1925. The birth-rate per 1,000 in 1926 works out at 29.77 as against 30.00 in the previous year.

There were 41 marriages in 1926 as against 29 in 1925.

(*b*) Public Health.

The general health of the community has been satisfactory. A mild epidemic of influenza occurred in February and March; one death was attributable to this epidemic.

It is to be noted that out of a total of 67 deaths, 21 were of persons over the age of 70.

The water supply and drainage systems have proved adequate.

There have been no complaints regarding slaughter-houses and bakeries, and there have been no prosecutions under the Board of Health Ordinance.

(*c*) Wages and Cost of Living.

Skilled and Semi-skilled Workmen, Carpenters, Masons, Smiths, &c.	3*s.* 6*d.* to 6*s.* per day.
Labourers, agricultural	2*s.* 6*d.* per day.
,, ,, female ...	1*s.* 6*d.* to 2*s.* per day.
Labourers, general	2*s.* 6*d.* per day.

Under certain circumstances, when performing work of a particularly arduous nature, e.g., coaling or discharging coal from ships, labourers are paid at a higher rate and earn from 3*s.* to 5*s.* per day.

Night work is paid for at the rate of 1*s*. per hour.

Domestics :—

Housemaids 10*s*. to 25*s*. per month, with board and lodging.
Cooks 20*s*. to 60*s*. per month, with board and lodging.
Male servants 30*s*. to 60*s*. per month, with board and lodging.
Grooms and Gardeners 2*s*. 6*d*. per day.

The cost of the principal articles of consumption during the year under review was as follows :—

Meat 1*s*. per lb.
Fish cheap and good.
Eggs 2*s*. per dozen.
Butter, Fresh 2*s*. 6*d*., Tinned 3*s*., per lb.
Bread 5*d*. per 1½ lb. loaf.
Milk 4*d*. per bottle.
Tea 3*s*. per lb.
Coffee 2*s*. 6*d*. per lb.
Sugar 3½*d*. per lb.
Rice 3½*d*. per lb.
Tobacco 11*s*. per lb.
Whisky 6*s*. 0d.- 9*s*. 6*d*. per bottle.
Kerosene 15*s*. 6*d*. per case.

(*c*) CLIMATE.

Barometer.—The mean barometric pressure for the year was 10,152.2 mb. M.S.L. (29.9 ins.).

The mean temperature was 60.1.

The absolute maximum was reached on 29th October, 76.0.

The absolute minimum was reached on 16th September, 50.0.

The mean wind force for the year under review was 9.7 m.p.h. (3.9 Beaufort notation).

The wind direction for the year was as follows :—

	Days.
E.N.E.	4
E.S.E.	36
S.S.E.	210
S.E.	75
S.	29
S.S.W.	3
Calm	2
No observation	6

Rainfall.—The total rainfall for the year was 28.922 inches. The greatest fall was on the 8th May, 0.892 inches.

These records are taken at Hutts' Gate Observatory, height 2,045 feet.

In Jamestown, about sea-level, the rainfall was 6.022 inches, and number of raindays 66. Average per rainday .09 inches. The greatest fall was .16 inches on the 12th April.

At the Briars Station, height 900 feet, the total for the year was 20.04 inches.

At Plantation, 1,600 feet, the rainfall was 30.16 inches, the greatest fall being 1.37 inches on 8th May, and the number of raindays 227.

VIII.—Post, Telegraph and Telephone Services.

(*a*) Post Office.

Revenue.

The total postal revenue from all sources amounted to £2,666 7*s*. 1*d*., being an increase of £413 9*s*. as compared with 1925. This increase is chiefly due to the demand for stamps from overseas.

Expenditure.

The expenditure in this department amounted to £982 7*s*. 3*d*., an increase of £547 9*s*. 7*d*. as compared with 1925. This increase was chiefly due to the necessity for meeting a demand for the carriage of mails for the years 1924 and 1925, and to the printing of stamps.

Mail Matter.

	1925.	1926.
Received from United Kingdom and Ascension :—		
Bags of mail	282	221
Parcels	2,207	1,743
Registered articles	1,453	1,038
Insured letters	3	10
Received from South Africa :—		
Bags of mail	70	74
Parcels	429	469
Registered articles	463	398
Despatched to United Kingdom and Ascension :—		
Bags of mail	73	73
Parcels	305	160
Registered articles	1,815	1,610
Despatched to South Africa :—		
Bags of mail	44	48
Parcels	168	166
Registered articles	469	458

Money and Postal Orders.

Issues to United Kingdom and South Africa :—

1925.	1926.
£10,364	£8,737

Issues from United Kingdom and South Africa :—

£2.073	£2,403

No insured or registered article was lost during the year under review.

(*b*) TELEGRAPHS.

There is no postal or inland telegraph. There is, however, an important cable station, maintained by the Eastern Telegraph Company, where messages are accepted for all parts of the world. This station has recently been brought right up-to-date by the installation of rapid transmission apparatus.

(*c*) TELEPHONES.

A telephone system is maintained by private subscribers. The rates for telephone service are £5 per instrument per annum.

IX.—General Observations.

(*a*) REPAIRS TO BUILDINGS.

The building staff were employed on minor repairs at the Castle, Government House, and the Hospital. They also completed the re-building of a cottage which it had been necessary to raze. The erection of the Arnold Memorial and the installation of the electric light plant at the hospital were also undertaken by the Public Works Department.

(*b*) ROADS.

The roads, always a difficult proposition, were maintained at their usual standard, and visitors from overseas frequently expressed surprise at the good condition of the roads in the face of such difficulties as exist.

(*c*) MAINTENANCE OF WATER SERVICE.

The water service remained in a satisfactory condition but there is no doubt that it will be necessary to incur expenditure in this connection at an early date. The present pipe line and the storage tanks have been in existence for very many years, and the Superintendent of Works has expressed the opinion that the town storage tanks are now beyond repair.

DEPARTMENTS AND INSTITUTIONS.

(*a*) *Crown Property.*

There was one meeting of the Commissioners of Crown Property during the year. Four grants of land for flax cultivation were approved.

(*b*) *Quarantine Station.*

The quarantine station was open for a period of twenty-one days in the early part of the year owing to the arrival of passengers from a ship having a case of cerebro-spinal meningitis on board. The quarantine arrangements were satisfactory and there was no development of the disease in the Colony.

(*c*) *Poor Relief.*

Revenue arising on account of the relief of the poor amounted to £991 2*s*. 7*d*. as compared with £1,089 14*s*. 10*d*. in 1925.

Expenditure amounted to £985 13*s*. 6*d*. as compared with £902 13*s*. 6*d*. in 1925.

(*d*) *Public Market.*

	1925.			1926.		
	£	*s*.	*d*.	£	*s*.	*d*.
Revenue	29	12	2	30	17	2
Expenditure	24	8	11	21	12	5

(*e*) *Girl Guides.*

The Girl Guide movement is popular in St. Helena and there are two companies, viz. :—

1. 1st Jamestown (St. James).
2. St. Paul's.

The former is made up of 20 Rangers, 35 Guides and 18 Brownies, while the latter has 8 Rangers and 42 Guides.

Both companies report satisfactory progress for 1926, the usual programme of tests and training having been carried out.

(*f*) *Boy Scouts.*

There is one troop of Boy Scouts, in the Colony, consisting of six patrols. The total number of scouts is 48, and of this number 6 will have completed six years' service in June, 1927. Two boys rank as King's Scouts and there are three " all round cords ".

The Vicar of Jamestown acts as Scoutmaster and this officer received the medal of merit from the Boy Scouts' Association during the year, the presentation being made by His Excellency the Governor on the occasion of a rally in Government House grounds.

(*g*) *Church Lads Brigade.*

There are two companies of the Church Lads Brigade in the Colony. One at St. Paul's consisting of 50 Cadets ranging in age from 14 years to 19 years, and 47 boys in the training corps whose ages range from 9 years to 14 years. The second company is at St. Matthew's and consists of 40 boys of all ranks.

ASCENSION ISLAND.

STATISTICS.

Population.

	1925.	1926.
Men	277	265
Women	27	26
Children	24	12
	328	303

Shipping.

Ships entered and cleared, 34.

Hospital.

In-patients, 71.
Out-patients, 167.

There was one death at Ascension in 1926, that of a St. Helenian who died from tuberculosis.

Rainfall.—The rainfall at Green Mountain was 42.68 inches, and in Georgetown, 10.1 inches.

Temperature.—The temperature taken at 21 hours at 38 feet above sea-level was mean maximum 84.1°, minimum 73.4°. Green Mountain is about 10° Fahrenheit cooler than Georgetown.

GENERAL OBSERVATIONS.

There are on the Island 534 sheep, 29 cattle, 27 pigs, 7 mules, 2 horses, and 12 donkeys. In addition to these domestic animals there are a few wild donkeys roaming the hills.

The year under review has been exceptionally good and an excellent crop of vegetables has been raised, although not enough to supply the inhabitants. Additional supplies are imported from St. Helena and South Africa.

The rainfall having been sufficient it was not necessary to condense water in 1926.

The rainfall was not, however, well distributed, five inches fell in one day in March and nine inches in a few hours in May. The bulk of this heavy fall was lost owing to the insufficient storage provided.

Turtles.—Forty-five turtles were captured in 1926. The season must be regarded as a poor one and the turtles seemingly no longer land in the vicinity of the town, while at the more remote beaches

in the north-west and the south-east, where they formerly resorted in hundreds, they are now only to be found in tens. It must however be borne in mind that the seasons vary considerably.

Phosphate and Guano.—A small shipment of guano was made in 1926 and investigations and operations are continuing.

H. J. PINK,
Colonial Treasurer.

The Castle,
24th March, 1927.

(142) Wt. 8592—499 500 9/27 H. St. G. 7/8

COLONIAL REPORTS—ANNUAL

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ST. HELENA

REPORT FOR 1927

(For Reports for 1925 and 1926 see Nos. 1297 and 1343, price 6d. and 9d. respectively.)

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1928.

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58–1381

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EMPIRE MARKETING BOARD PUBLICATIONS.

Note on the work of the Board and Statement of Research Grants approved by the Secretary of State from July, 1926 to May, 1927. Cmd. 2898. 3*d*. (3½*d*.).

Agricultural Economics in the Empire. (E.M.B. 1.) 6*d*. (7*d*.).

Tropical Agricultural Research in the Empire, with special reference to Cacao, Sugar Cane, Cotton and Palms. (E.M.B. 2.) 1*s*. 6*d*. (1*s*. 9*d*.).

Agriculture in Trinidad. Report on Development. (E.M.B. 3.) 3*d*. (3½*d*.).

Agriculture in British Guiana. Report on Development. (E.M.B. 4.) 9*d*. (10*d*.).

Agriculture in Leeward and Windward Islands and Barbados. Report on Development. (E.M.B. 5.) 6*d*. (7*d*.).

Geophysical Surveying. Report of a Sub-Committee of the Committee of Civil Research. November, 1927. (E.M.B. 6.) 6*d*. (7*d*.).

The Chemistry of Wine Making. A Report on Oenological Research. (E.M.B. 7.) 1*s*. 0*d*. (1*s*. 2*d*.).

IMPERIAL ECONOMIC COMMITTEE PUBLICATIONS.

The Imperial Economic Committee has issued a series of publications on the problems connected with the marketing and preparing for market of foodstuffs produced within the British Empire. The following six volumes are now ready. General Questions, 9*d*. (10*d*.); Meat, 9*d*. (10*d*.); Fruit, 4*s*. 6d. (4*s*. 10*d*.); Dairy Produce, 1*s*. (1*s*. 3*d*.); Fish, 6*d*. (8*d*.); Poultry, Eggs, Honey, 1*s*. (1*s*. 2*d*.).

The Eighth Report of the Committee, "The Functions and Work of the Imperial Economic Committee," 6*d*. (7*d*.). The relationship between the Committee and the Empire Marketing Board is explained in this Report.

All Prices are net. Those in brackets include postage.

ST. HELENA.

ANNUAL REPORT FOR THE YEAR 1927.

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Historical.

St. Helena was discovered by the Portuguese Commander Juan de Nova Castella on St. Helena's Day, 21st May, 1502, during his return from India with a squadron of three Portuguese vessels.

The Portuguese did not colonise the Island but were satisfied in keeping secret its situation until 1588, when it was visited by Captain Cavendish on his return from a voyage round the world.

The Dutch entered into possession of the Island and held it from 1645 to 1650, when they preferred to establish themselves at the Cape of Good Hope. St. Helena was thereupon occupied by the East India Company and a Charter for its administration was granted in 1661.

In 1665, according to some accounts, the Island was captured by the Dutch, who were expelled the same year. Again they seized it in January, 1673, but only held it until May of that year, when they were finally driven out by Captain Sir Richard Munden of the King's Navy.

In December, 1673, a new Charter was issued to the East India Company and, with the exception of the term of Napoleon's exile,

the Island remained under the Company until 22nd April, 1834, when it was brought under the direct administration of the Crown.

An instrument entitled "The Laws and Constitution of the Island of St. Helena" was issued by Charles II in 1681. This document, bearing the seal of the East India Company, is still in the possession of the Governor of St. Helena, as are also the records of the Colony from 1678 to the present day.

The outstanding feature in the history of St. Helena is its connection with the exile of the Emperor Napoleon. The house occupied by him at Longwood, and the tomb in which his remains lay for 20 years till their removal in 1840, are maintained by the French Government, who were granted a freehold in 1858.

Apart from its Napoleonic associations, St. Helena has an interesting history and the Island has fluctuated between extreme poverty and comparative prosperity almost since its occupation.

It was chiefly celebrated in the East India Company's days as a port of call and refreshment house between England and India. Large quantities of fruit and vegetables were grown for the provisioning of ships calling. Records show that upwards of 900 ships were entered at the port annually. The opening of the Suez Canal sounded the death-knell of St. Helena as a shipping port and from that time shipping has gradually declined. The average number of ships now calling is about 40 per annum

St. Helena has intimate associations with the suppression of the slave trade between West Africa and the Americas.

Slave ships captured by the British warships were brought to St. Helena for condemnation, and a settlement for freed slaves was founded at Rupert's Bay. A few took service in the Island but about 10,000 were conveyed to the West Indies and British Guiana.

During the Boer War of 1899-1901 St. Helena was used as a place of incarceration for prisoners of war, and upwards of 4,000 were detained in the Island. This necessitated a garrison of about 3,000 troops.

For a few years after the repatriation of the Boer prisoners a garrison was maintained at St. Helena. Its withdrawal in 1906-7 caused considerable hardship among the population, who had learnt to depend on the garrison for their livelihood. The departure of the troops was not, however, an unmixed evil, for it threw the Island on its own resources and led to the creation of the flax industry on which the prosperity of the inhabitants now so greatly depends.

A lace industry has been established since 1907, and gives employment to a number of women and children.

St. Helena was visited in 1910 by His Royal Highness the Duke of Connaught on his way to open the first Parliament of the Union of South Africa, and in 1925 it had the honour of a visit from His Royal Highness the Prince of Wales, who remained for two days on his way from South Africa to South America.

Geographical.

St. Helena lies in latitude 15.55 South and longitude 5.42 West. It is about 950 miles due south of the Equator, 4,000 miles from England, and 1,700 miles from Cape Town. The voyage from England occupies 17 days, and from the Cape 6 days.

The area of the Island is 47 square miles; there are about 60 miles of roads.

The aspect of St. Helena from the sea is forbidding. It rises abruptly in bare cliffs, which vary from 450 to 2,400 feet in height. The face of this wall of rock is cut by deep, narrow gorges.

Above the cliffs the ground rises in a fairly regular slope, but with numerous valleys, to a ridge lying across the middle of the Island. This ridge is serrated in form; its general altitude is about 2,000 feet, but two of its peaks, easily accessible and affording magnificent views, rise to 2,700 feet.

The Island has been divided into three zones, "Coast," "Middle," and "Central."

The "Coast" zone extends from about a mile to a mile and a-half round the Island. Except in some of the valleys, where fruit and vegetables may be grown, the only vegetation is prickly pear.

The "Middle" zone, at an altitude of 400 to 1,800 feet, succeeds the "Coast" zone. The hills and valleys and pleasing scenery in the higher levels of this area are suggestive of parts of Wales and Devon. Oaks, Scotch pines, gorse, and blackberries flourish there, and in 1926 at Plantation during a prolonged winter some primroses made their appearance. It is the pleasantest part of the Island in which to live and it contains Plantation (Government House), Bishopsholme, Rosemary Hall, Princes Lodge, Longwood, and other residences.

The "Central" zone, about three miles long by two miles wide, is ground each side of the central ridge, the highest ground in the Island. In some parts the ground is precipitous, in others undulating with grassy slopes.

The population of the Island is about 3,700, of whom about 1,500 live in Jamestown, the capital, situated in the "Coast" zone, while the rest dwell in the "country," as the other two zones are locally designated.

Transport is by horse, either driven or ridden. Owing to the hilly nature of the country the rate of progress is slow, but time is rarely of the essence of any undertaking in St. Helena. The drive, for instance, from the town to Plantation or to Longwood, where the golf links are, or from Plantation to Longwood, in each case a distance of five miles, occupies an hour and a-quarter. The introduction of motor transport is under consideration.

Ascension Island.

Ascension Island, lying in latitude 7.53 South and longitude 14.18 West, about 700 miles north-west of St. Helena, was discovered by the Portuguese on 20th May, 1501. It became noted for its abundance of sea fowl and excellent turtle, the latter "Freeing sailors entirely from the scurvy and other diseases of the blood."

The Island was occupied by the British in 1815 at the time Napoleon was a prisoner in St. Helena. In 1821 the garrison was formed of marines, and the Admiralty continued control over the Island until 12th September, 1922, when Ascension became a Dependency of St. Helena.

At the present time the Eastern Telegraph Company have a station there, and officers of the Company are invested with certain administrative powers.

A company has been formed to exploit the guano and phosphate deposits of the Island, but the export has not yet assumed large proportions.

Ascension has an area of 34 square miles; it is of volcanic origin, and its appearance from the sea is rugged and desolate. Green Mountain, however, 2,800 feet high, relieves, with its vegetation, the barren and depressing aspect of the larger part of the Island, and affords pasture for a certain number of sheep and cattle.

The pure and dry air of Ascension has given its climate a reputation for being singularly healthy.

General.

The question of the rehabilitation of agriculture and horticulture in St. Helena has occupied the attention of Government for some time.

During the year under review the Colony was fortunate in that its agricultural and forestry possibilities excited the interest of Mr. Davy, Deputy Director of Agriculture, Nyasaland, and of Mr. Legat, Chief Conservator of Forests to the Union Government of South Africa.

The result of the interest thus aroused was a brief visit from Mr. Davy, which has been followed up by correspondence and the receipt of seeds and literature; and an interesting correspondence with Mr. Legat.

Under date 1st August, His Excellency the Governor addressed a despatch to the Secretary of State on the subject of the appointment of a Horticultural or Agricultural Officer, an appointment which has now been sanctioned. In this despatch His Excellency dwelt at length on the past agricultural and horticultural history of the Island and quoted from the reports of Sir Daniel Morris, who reported on the agricultural possibilities of the Island in 1884, and that of Mr. Mason, who rendered a similar report in 1921.

The despatch was printed and copies were supplied to all land-owners and other persons interested in the agricultural possibilities of the Colony.

Another important subject that was dealt with at great length during the year was the question of the introduction of motor transport.

Under Ordinance No. 2 of 1919 the use of motor transport is practically prohibited, and under the conditions thus established, transport has to be effected by horse, ox and donkey. The horse is used chiefly for personal transport and for the handling of small merchandise. Oxen are used for heavy loads, and while ox transport is cheap it is very slow and cumbrous. Donkeys are largely used for the conveyance of " flax " leaves from the place of cutting to the mills. They are also very largely used by the " country " people for the transport of their own marketing. Donkeys will never be displaced in any economic scheme in St. Helena. They cost practically nothing to keep and they carry an astonishing load into places that neither motor, horse nor ox could possibly reach.

The chief consideration in the matter of introducing motor transport was that of roads, and this question had two aspects, i.e., grade and width. The roads of St. Helena are very largely mountain roads and are both steep and narrow. A large amount of correspondence took place between St. Helena and other Colonies on the subject of road conditions, and much assistance was afforded by those Colonies that were approached on this subject. Within the Island itself something was done in the way of road survey and the plotting of gradients, etc.

Under date 11th August His Excellency the Governor addressed a despatch to the Secretary of State reviewing the whole question of motor transport, and under date 28th October the Secretary of State authorised the repeal of Ordinance No. 2 of 1919. Subject to the repeal of this Ordinance and to regulations about to be framed, motor transport will be permitted in the Island.

This despatch was printed for public information.

Important work in connection with land titles was undertaken during the year. For some considerable time certain confusion had existed owing to the obscurity of some of the land records. The land registers have now been reviewed, and, with the exception of a few outstanding queries, the status of all properties has been determined.

The question of infant welfare has received considerable attention during the year. A complete medical and dental examination of all school children has been carried out. In the case of the medical examination the results are highly satisfactory; the dental condition of the children, however, leaves much to be desired.

St. Helena was noted in the past for its good and abundant water-supply

Captain Breckman, describing St. Helena in the account of his voyage to Borneo, 1715, observed, "The greatest conveniency of this Island for ships is the plenty and goodness of the water." During the year the question of the supply of water to shipping was under consideration. The existing facilities were unable to meet the existing or possible demand, and it is proposed to erect additional storage tanks on the wharf.

The improvement of the water-supplies in the country districts is also engaging the attention of Government.

I.—Financial.

Revenue and Expenditure.

The revenue for the year amounted to £17,986 exclusive of any grant-in-aid, showing a decrease of £3,458 as compared with 1926. It will be borne in mind that in 1926 the outstanding assets of the Government Flax Mill were absorbed by the Colonial Government, and cypress timber purchased in 1925 was brought into revenue. These two items amounted to £8,323; thus, apart from this extra-ordinary figure, the revenue for 1927 shows a decidedly healthy aspect.

There was a grant-in-aid of £2,500 to general revenue.

Expenditure amounted to £16,740 showing a decrease of £6,414 as compared with that of the previous year, in which £7,727 doubtful assets were written off.

The revenue as compared with expenditure is therefore :—

	£
Total Revenue	20,486
Total Expenditure	16,740
Surplus	£3,746

Statement of revenue and expenditure for the past five years :—

	Revenue.	*Expenditure.*	*Grant-in-aid.*
	£	£	£
1923	11,509	13,959	—
1924	16,727	14,182	4,000
1925	21,731	19,566	7,000
1926	23,945	23,154	2,500
1927	20,486	16,740	2,500

Assets and Liabilities.

The statement of Assets and Liabilities shows an excess of Assets over Liabilities amounting to £8,701.

Currency.

Bills of Exchange on the Crown Agents for the Colonies issued during 1927 amounted to £14,148, as against £15,794 in 1926.

£391 in specie was exported during the year.

Remittances.

£5,184 was remitted to the Crown Agents during the year, the main bulk being in the form of Bills on His Majesty's Paymaster-General.

Crown Agents for the Colonies.

For many years past there has been an overdraft with the Crown Agents, but it is pleasing to note that for the year under report £4,000 was advanced to the Crown Agents at interest and £500 deposit at call. That is to say, on 31st December, 1927, the Crown Agents held £4,500 of the Colony's money, whilst the Colony owed them only £34.

The following figures show the state of the Colony's overdraft, advance and cash balance at the Crown Agents for the past five years :—

	Overdraft.	*Cash.*
	£	£
December 31, 1923	7,500	Dr. 501
December 31, 1924	1,500	Dr. 478
December 31, 1925	1,500	Cr. 607
December 31, 1926	500	Cr. 530
Advance to Crown Agents December 31, 1927 ...	4,500	Dr. 34

II.—Production.

Agriculture.

The only agricultural product of any importance in St. Helena is *Phormium Tenax*, from which the fibre known as New Zealand flax is produced.

The quality of the fibre remained constant during the year. It is estimated that there are 2,000 acres under flax cultivation.

Botley's Lay.—The revenue derived from the Government pasture lands at Botley's Lay or Common amounted t £92 11s. 7½d., while expenditure amounted to £75 4s. 2d. The chief items of expenditure were the wages of the shepherd and the rent and rates.

Maldivia Gardens.—The sale of fruit from Maldivia Gardens produced £32 5s. 5d., against an expenditure of £46 14s. 6d. The chief item of expenditure was wages.

White Ants.—An intensive campaign against white ants within the grounds of Government House was undertaken during the year, and was attended with marked success.

An area within a radius of about 200 yards of Government House was selected for operations, and within this area about 60 nests have been destroyed and about 250 trees chemically treated. The result, it is hoped, will tend to the practical elimination of the pest within the area of operations.

III.—Trade and Economics.

Customs Revenue.

The Customs revenue collected during 1927 amounted to £5,011 10*s*. 6*d*., as against £4,999 18*s*. 9*d*. in 1926, showing a small increase of £11 11*s*. 9*d*.

Increases of revenue appear under :—

Duty on Imports £71 4*s*. 11*d*. An increase in the consumption of spirits and cigarettes accounts for this.

Water £74 4*s*. The shipping agents, on the understanding that the Government would reduce the dues on water supplied to shipping, imported a 70-ton water-boat. The dues were reduced from 2*s*. to 1*s*. per ton under amending Ordinance No. 1 of 1927, which came into operation on 8th June. The results have justified this reduction.

Increases of £3 1*s*. 0*d*. and £1 13*s*. 0*d*. are found under Permits and Warehouse Rent respectively.

Decreases of revenue appear under Wharfage on Imports £12 12*s*. 11*d*., Wharfage on Exports £18 12*s*. 8*d*., Tonnage Dues £13 13*s*. 3*d*., *Ad Valorem* Duty £14 5*s*. 11*d*., and War Dues £79 6*s*. 5*d*.

The decrease under Wharfage on Exports was unexpected as, although a mill, closed in 1926, was re-opened in 1927, another mill exported 94 tons of fibre and 50 tons of tow less than in the previous year.

The decrease on War Dues is due to the fact that they were abolished in 1926 and therefore do not appear in 1927.

Comparative Statement of Customs Revenue for the years 1926 *and* 1927.

	1926.	*1927.*	*Increase.*	*Decrease.*
	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.
Duty on Imports ...	2,304 4 0	2,375 8 11	71 4 11	—
Wharfage on Imports	1,502 11 7	1,489 18 8	—	12 12 11
Wharfage on Exports	479 1 6	460 8 10	—	18 12 8
Water	55 6 0	129 10 0	74 4 0	—
Permits	31 18 0	34 19 0	3 1 0	—
Warehouse Rent ...	23 1 0	24 14 0	1 13 0	—
Tonnage Dues ...	380 11 6	366 18 3	—	13 13 3
5% Duty	143 18 9	129 12 10	—	14 5 11
War Dues	79 6 5	—	—	79 6 5
Totals ...	£4,999 18 9	£5,011 10 6	£150 2 11	£138 11 2

Customs Expenditure.

Customs expenditure amounted to £564 2*s*. 8*d*., as compared with £521 2*s*. 3*d*. in 1926.

The increase appears under Equipment. The growing demand and quicker delivery of water supplied to shipping necessitated the installation of a larger hose between the wharf hydrant and the water-boat.

In using the 2½-inch hose it took a little over 3½ hours to fill the water-boat; but, now that a 4-inch hose is fitted, the time is reduced to 2 hours.

IMPORTS.

The value of imports for 1927 amounted to £49,678, as against £56,040 in 1926, showing a decrease of £6,362. This total includes Government imports, exclusive of munitions of war, to the amount of £1,827.

The principal increases in value over 1926 are in :—	£
Coal and coke	299
Rice	341
Spirits	162
Sugar	622
Timber	588
The principal decreases are :—	
*Boats	800
Chemicals, Drugs, etc.	219
Drapery and Dry Goods	1,792
Earthenware and Glassware	273
Flour	269
Foodstuffs (other than enumerated)	1,273
Grain	616
Machinery	698
Margarine and Butter	388
Oilman' stores	627
Paraffin Oil	955
Stationery	124
Tea	369

*A water-boat to the value of £800 was imported in 1926

Two large shipments of paraffin oil were imported in 1926, as against one in 1927.

EXPORTS.

The value of exports in 1927 amounted to £34,274, as against £39,977 in 1926, showing a decrease of £5,703.

The principal increases were :—	£
Flax Seed	174
Wool	101
and decreases :—	
Fibre and Tow	3,877
Rope and Twine	1,295
Hides	183
Specie	609

The weight of fibre and tow exported during the year was 738 and 365 tons respectively, as compared with 751 and 417 tons respectively in 1926.

WAGES AND COST OF LIVING.

Skilled and semi-skilled workmen	3*s*. 6*d*. to 6*s*. per day.
Carpenters, masons, smiths, &c.	
Labourers, agricultural ...	2*s*. 6*d*. per day.
Labourers, agricultural, female	1*s*. 6*d*. to 2*s*. per day.
Labourers, general	2*s*. 6*d*. per day.

Under certain circumstances, when performing work of a particularly arduous nature, e.g., coaling or discharging coal from ships, labourers are paid at a higher rate and earn from 3*s*. to 5*s*. per day.

Night work is paid for at the rate of 1*s*. per hour.

Domestics :—

Housemaids 10*s*. to 25*s*. per month, with board and lodging.

Cooks 20*s*. to 60*s*. per month, with board and lodging.

Male servants 30*s*. to 60*s*. per month, with board and lodging.

Grooms and gardeners 2*s*. 6*d*. per day.

The cost of the principal articles of consumption during the year under review was as follows :—

Meat 1*s*. per lb.
Fish cheap and good.
Eggs 2*s*. per dozen.
Butter, fresh 2*s*. 6*d*. per lb., tinned 3*s*. per lb.
Bread 5*d*. per 1½-lb. loaf.
Milk 4*d*. per bottle.
Tea 3*s*. per lb.
Coffee 2*s*. 6*d*. per lb. Local coffee 2*s*. per lb.
Sugar 3½*d*. per lb.
Rice 3½*d*. per lb.
Tobacco 11*s*. per lb.
Whisky 6*s*. 9*d*.-9*s*. 6*d*. per bottle.
Kerosene 15*s*. 6*d*. per case.

IV.—Communications.

SHIPPING.

The number of vessels calling at the port during the year was 39, as compared with 40 during 1926. The total tonnage entering and clearing the port was 143,131, as compared with 164,327 in 1926. The vessels calling were made up as follows :—

British warships	4
British merchant ships	34
German cruiser	1

Normal mail service, that is, one outward and one homeward mail each month, was maintained throughout the year.

Telegraphs.

The Eastern Telegraph Company maintains a cable station in the Colony, where messages are accepted for all parts of the world. There is no internal postal service nor inland telegraph.

Telephones.

The telephone system is maintained by private subscribers. The rates for telephone service are £5 per instrument per annum.

Roads.

The maintenance of the roads under existing conditions is still a difficult proposition.

Expenditure on this service amounted to £900. The repeal of the Ordinance prohibiting motor traffic has been approved and the matter of a Motor Traffic Ordinance and of Regulations is now under consideration. Consideration is also being given to the introduction of road-making machinery, e.g., stone-crushers, rollers, &c.

V.—Justice, Police, Prisons.

Supreme Court.

There were no cases on the criminal side of the Supreme Court during the year under review. There was one civil action only. This was a matrimonial cause in which a decree *nisi* was granted.

Police Court.

Ninety-six cases were heard in the Police Court, resulting in fifty-four convictions.

Comparative table of Police Court convictions for the past five years is appended :—

The increase in Police Court convictions partly arises from the enforcement of the Education Ordinance.

Previous Years.	*1923.*	*1924.*	*1925.*	*1926.*	*1927*
Assaults and other offences against the person.	4	2	3	3	14
Malicious injury to property ...	3	2	2	2	2
Offences other than malicious against property.	3	1	2	2	3
Offences against Highways and other Laws tending to the social economy of the Island.	6	1	14	14	17
Educational	–	–	4	4	10
Others	2	6	9	9	8
Total ...	18	12	34	34	54

Gaol.

There were two prisoners in gaol at the end of 1926. The number of prisoners committed during the year was fifteen, of which total three were committed on remand.

The total cost of the gaol during the year was £139 4*s*. 1*d*., as compared with £114 10*s*. 4*d*. for the previous year.

VI.—Public Works.

The Public Works Department carried out an extensive programme during the year. Major operations of the Department during the year were the building of servants' quarters and stables to complete the Olive Cottage property, the razing and re-erection of the Government Forester's cottage, the razing and re-erection of the Old Country School. This building, by arrangement with the Lord Bishop of St. Helena, has been rebuilt as a vicarage for St. Paul's Church, and a comfortable and substantial residence is now available for this purpose.

Maintenance of Roads.—See under Communications.

Maintenance of Water.—The increased demand for water for shipping has exercised the mind of Government to a considerable extent and arrangements were made during the latter part of the year for the provision of new tanks for the purpose.

The following extensive repairs to water-lines were carried out during the year :—

1. The replacement of the water-line and old ram which provides the public water-supply to Francis Plain.

2. The renewal of the old pipe-lines leading from Wills' land to the cattle-troughs in the Longwood area.

A considerable programme of minor repairs was also carried out.

VII.—Public Health.

There was a widespread epidemic of influenza at the beginning of the year. There were upwards of 2,000 cases and the resources of the Medical Department were tried to the utmost. Happily there were few deaths attributable to this epidemic.

The number of admissions to hospital was 113. 6,066 out-patients were treated.

There were 124 children vaccinated during the year. This is more than double the number of vaccinations in 1926. This extraordinary increase is chiefly due to the fact that attention was particularly drawn to the Vaccination Ordinance and to the obligations of parents, &c., under the Ordinance.

A medical examination of all the school children was made during the year. This is the first time that such an examination has been made. A highly satisfactory state of general health was revealed, with the exception of the dental condition of the children. A dental surgeon was appointed during the latter part of the year and arrived in the Colony about the middle of December.

VIII.—Vital Statistics.

Population.

The estimated civil population on 31st December was 3,754, as compared with 3,728 at 31st December, 1926. Deaths during the year numbered 63, as compared with 67 in the previous year. The death-rate for 1927 was 16.78 per 1,000, as compared with 17.97 for 1926.

There were 99 births during the year, the birth-rate being 26.55 per 1,000, as compared with 29.77 in 1926.

The percentage of illegitimate births for the year was 21.21.

There were 36 marriages during the year.

Infant Mortality.

The infant mortality rate for the year was 3.99 per 1,000. For the years 1923 to 1927 infant mortality was 9, 11, 7, 14, 15.

The question of infant mortality has been occupying the attention of Government to a considerable extent, and the question of the establishment of Mothercraft and Infant Welfare centres is under consideration.

Sanitary.

The water-supply and drainage systems have proved adequate.

There have been no complaints regarding slaughter-houses and bakeries, and there have been no prosecutions under the Board of Health Ordinance.

IX.—Education.

The total number of children under instruction was 680.

The technical training class for boys mentioned in the 1925 and 1926 Reports was started during the year and the Superintendent of Education has reported on this class as follows :—

> " The woodwork class in the Boys' School is now well under way, and, considering the initial paucity of equipment, has already done good work. Instruction is given for two hours on each of two afternoons in the week. The boys are interested and keen and quick to learn, and the progress they have already made is gratifying and has amply justified the establishment of the class."

The Superintendent of Education has rendered a satisfactory report as a result of his quarterly examinations.

X.—Lands and Survey.

There were five meetings of the Commissioners of Crown Property held during the year. Forty-one grants of land for building and flax-planting were sanctioned.

XI.—Labour.

See under Trade and Economics.

XII.—Miscellaneous.

Legislation.

Five Ordinances were enacted in 1927, as follows :—

No. 1.—Consolidation of Customs Ordinances.

No. 2.—To provide for the registration in the Colony of Letters Patent granted in the United Kingdom.

No. 3.—Supplementary Expenditure of 1926.

No. 4.—To provide for Sessions of the Supreme Court to be held in Ascension Island.

No. 5.—An amendment of the Ascension Island Police Ordinance of 1923.

Climate.

Barometer.—The mean barometric pressure for the year was 1014.825.

The mean temperature was 61.2.

The obsolute maximum, reached on 28th February, was 73.0.

The absolute minimum, 52.0, was reached on 24th July.

The mean wind force for the year under review was 9.7 m.p.h. (3.9 Beaufort notation).

The wind direction for the year was as follows :—

	Days.
E.	6
E.N.E.	4
E.S.E.	12
S.S.E.	251
S.E.	43
S.	37
S.W.	6
Calm	2
No observations	4

Rainfall.

The total rainfall for the year was 27.928 inches. The greatest fall was on the 1st May, 1.120 inches.

These records are taken at Hutt's Gate Observatory, height 2,045 feet.

In Jamestown, about sea-level, the rainfall was 6.006 inches, and number of rain-days 59. Average per rain-day .017 inch. The greatest fall was .075 inch on the 16th April.

At Plantation, 1,600 feet, the rainfall was 31.60 inches, the greatest fall being 1.59 inches on 1st May, and the number of rain-days 180.

At the Briars Station, height 900 feet, the total for the year was 18.58 inches.

Post Office.

The total number of letter-bags received at the Post Office from the United Kingdom and Ascension was 228, as compared with 221 in 1926; while there were 230 parcels post receptacles received, as compared with 226 in 1926.

21,862 letters and other packages were forwarded from the Post Office, as compared with 22,540 in 1926.

Savings Bank.

The total number of depositors into the Savings Bank in 1927 was 246, as compared with 243 in 1926. Total deposits amounted to £4,048, as compared with £2,412 in 1926. This very considerable increase is due to increased internal prosperity and to the fact that some overseas visitors made use of the Savings Bank.

Stock to the value of £12,082 (cost price) is held by Government on behalf of Savings Bank depositors.

Poor Board.

Details of revenue and expenditure of the Poor Board are not yet available as the Board's financial year does not end until 31st March.

Public Market.

Revenue from the Public Market during 1927 amounted to £34, while expenditure totalled £23 13*s*. 2*d*. This compares with 1926 as £30 17*s*. 2*d*. and £21 12*s*. 6*d*. respectively. The finance and control of the Public Market are in the hands of the Poor Board.

Weights and Measures.

The Inspector of Weights and Measures reports that all weights and measures are accurate. During the year under review, four weighing-machines have been adjusted, one weighing-machine was condemned, 10 weights were readjusted, and 7 weights condemned.

Boy Scouts.

There is one troop of Boy Scouts on the Island, consisting of 6 patrols of 8 boys each and a small pack of 6 wolf cubs. These patrols are divided into two sections each under an Assistant Scoutmaster, while a Scoutmaster is in command of the whole troop.

Church Lads' Brigade.

There are two Companies of the Church Lads' Brigade, one at St. Paul's and one at St. Matthew's. St. Paul's Company consists of 3 officers, 11 non-commissioned officers, 42 cadets, and 43 boys in the Training Corps, while St. Matthew's Company consists of 26 lads under 3 officers.

GIRL GUIDES.

There are two Companies of Girl Guides, one in Jamestown (1st Jamestown Company) and one at St. Paul's (1st St. Paul's Company).

In the Jamestown Company there are 40 guides and 24 Brownies, while the Country Company consists of 3 officers, 24 rangers, 36 guides, and 7 Brownies.

ASCENSION ISLAND.

STATISTICS.

Population.—The population of Ascension Island on 31st December, 1927, was 298, made up of 111 Europeans and 187 St. Helenians.

Shipping.—29 ships entered and cleared the port during the year, as compared with 34 in 1926.

Hospital.—In-patients 22. Out-patients (including 19 dental) 243.

Rainfall.—The rainfall for Green Mountain was 39.83 inches and at Georgetown 5.73 inches. 1927 was, therefore, considerably drier than 1926 when the rainfall for Green Mountain was 42.68 inches and for Georgetown 10.1 inches.

Temperature.—The temperature taken at 21 hours at 38 feet above sea-level was mean maximum 83.7°, minimum 73.2°.

GENERAL OBSERVATIONS.

The farm at Green Mountain carries the following stock :—

Sheep	439
Pigs	44
Cattle	26
Mules	5
Donkeys	7
Horse	1

Water-Supply.—The rainfall was spread fairly evenly over the year except for the months of May and June which were very dry. September and November were the wettest months with 5 inches and 5.72 inches respectively.

Turtles.—113 turtles were captured in 1927, as compared with 45 in 1926.

H. J. PINK,
Officer-in-Charge, Secretariat.

SECRETARIAT,
17*th March*, 1928.

(1990—21) Wt. 2627—161 750 6/28 H St. G. 7/8

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ST. HELENA.

ANNUAL REPORT FOR THE YEAR 1928.

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SITUATION AND AREA.

The Colony of St. Helena consists of the Island of St. Helena with the Island of Ascension as a Dependency.

St. Helena.

St. Helena lies in latitude 15.55 South and longitude 5.42 West. It is about 950 miles due south of the Equator, 4,000 miles from England, and 1,700 miles from Cape Town. The voyage from England occupies from 14 to 17 days, and from Cape Town from five to six days.

The area of the Island is 47 square miles. The population is about 3,700, of whom about 1,500 live in Jamestown, the port and only town in the island.

St. Helena is of volcanic origin. The latest account of its geology is a report by Professor Daly of Harvard University, who visited the island at the end of 1921. This report appears in the *Proceedings of the American Academy of Arts and Sciences* Vol. 62 No. 2, March, 1927. Professor Daly is of the opinion that St. Helena dates from pre-Glacial time, and is probably pre-Pliocene.

The aspect of St. Helena from the sea is forbidding. It rises abruptly in bare cliffs, which vary in height from 400 to 2,000 ft. The face of this wall of rock is cut by deep narrow gorges.

Above the cliffs the ground rises in a fairly regular slope, but with numerous valleys, to a ridge lying across the middle of the island. This ridge is serrated in form ; its general altitude is about 2,000 feet, but two of its peaks, easily accessible and affording magnificent views, rise to 2,700 feet.

The island has been divided into three zones, " Coast," " Middle," and " Central."

The " Coast " zone extends from about a mile to a mile and a-half round the island. Except in some of the valleys, where fruit and vegetables may be grown, the only vegetation is prickly pear.

The " Middle " zone, at an altitude of 400 to 1,800 feet, succeeds the " Coast " zone. The hills and valleys and pleasing scenery in the higher levels of this area are suggestive of parts of Wales and Devon. Oaks, Scotch pines, gorse, and blackberries flourish there, and in 1926 at Plantation during a prolonged winter some primroses made their appearance.

The " Central " zone, about three miles long by two miles wide, is ground each side of the central ridge, the highest ground in the island. In some parts the ground is precipitous, in others undulating with grassy slopes.

Ascension.

Ascension Island lies in latitude 7.53 South and longitude 14.18 West, about 700 miles north-west of St. Helena. It has an area of 34 square miles. The population consists of European and St. Helenian employees of the Eastern Cable Company and of the St. Helena Development Company. On the 31st of December, 1928, the population numbered 213.

The island is of volcanic origin, and, as in the case of St. Helena, the most recent account of its geology is a report by Professor Daly which appeared in the *Proceedings of the American Academy of Arts and Sciences,* Vol. 60, No. 1, June, 1925. Professor Daly observes that from the time of its discovery no sign of volcanic activity, not even a hot spring, has been reported though geologically the island is extremely young. He thinks it possible that the whole mass above sea-level has been erupted during post-Glacial time.

From the sea Ascension appears bleak and desolate. Green Mountain, however, 2,800 feet high, relieves with its vegetation the barren and depressing effect of the larger part of the island and affords pasture for a certain number of sheep and cattle.

HISTORY.

St. Helena.

There is an abundance of interesting historical and discriptive records concerning St. Helena. The archives of the Administration from 1678 are preserved at the Castle; among them is the original of the instrument "The Laws and Constitution of the Island of St. Helena" issued by Charles II in 1681.

The island was discovered on 21st May, 1502, St. Helena's day, by Juan de Nova Castella, Commodore of a Portuguese squadron returning from India. The Portuguese made no attempt to make a colony of the island but were content to maintain it as a place of "refreshment" for their ships by planting fruit trees and vegetables and introducing goats, pigs, and wildfowl, including pheasants and partridges. It was the practice of the Portuguese to land on the island sick persons of a ship's company, "whom they suspect will not live till they get home; these they leave to refresh themselves, and take away the year following, with the other fleet, if they live so long."

The discovery of the island is said to have been kept a secret until the Englishman, Captain Cavendish, returning from a voyage round the world, anchored there on 8th June, 1588. He found on the island a great abundance of fruit and vegetables, thousands of goats, a great store of swine and wild fowl (the pheasants "big and fat surpassing those which are in our country in bigness and numbers in a company"). He found also "divers handsome buildings and houses, one, particularly, was a church tiled, and whitened on the outside very fair." The only human inhabitants were three slaves and from them Captain Cavendish learnt the news that "the East Indian fleet all laden with spices and Callicut cloth, with store of treasure, and very rich stones and pearls, were gone but twenty days before we came hither."

St. Helena now became a place for "the English, Portugals, Spaniards, and Hollanders to refresh themselves in going, but, for the most part, in returning from the Indies, it being sufficient to furnish ships with provisions for their voyage, here being salt to preserve the meat from stinking; and besides the air is so healthful that they often left their sick people there, who, in a short time, are restored to perfect health." "The greatest convenience of this island for ships" reported an English seaman "is the plenty and goodness of the water."

Eventually in 1645 the Dutch assumed possession of the island, but a few years later abandoned it to establish themselves at the Cape of Good Hope. Their place in St. Helena was taken by the English and in 1661 the Crown granted to the East India Company a charter for its administration.

According to some accounts the island was recaptured in 1665 by the Dutch, who were expelled the same year. They seized it again in 1672. The English Governor and his followers made their

escape in English and French ships to Brazil. There they met an English squadron under the command of Captain (afterwards Sir Richard) Munden, who determined to recover possession of the island. He arrived off St. Helena on the evening of 14th May, 1673, and was fortunate in finding that no look-out was being kept. He landed a shore party at Prosperous Bay, as it came to be called in commemoration of the exploit. There the most active man of the party climbed up a precipice, taking with him a ball of twine to which was attached a rope by means of which the rest of the party were hauled up. The cliff thereafter became known as "Holdfast Tom," the urgent admonition of his comrades to the intrepid climber. As the ships appeared off Jamestown the landing party reached the heights above the town and the Dutch surrendered without striking a blow.

St. Helena reverted by conquest to the possession of the Crown. In December of 1673 a new charter was granted to the East India Company and, with the exception of the term of Napoleon's exile, the island continued under the Company's administration until 22nd April, 1834, when it was brought under the direct control of the Crown.

The Colony is now administered by a Governor aided by an Executive Council. The Governor alone makes ordinances, there being no legislative council, but power is reserved to legislate by Order of His Majesty in Council.

The East India Company, in the terms of their Charter of 1673, attached importance to the island as "very necessary and commodious for refreshing their servants and people in theire retournes homewards, being often then weak and decayed in their health by reason of their long voyages under their hott clymes." This service the island continued to render during the period of the Company's administration. It had no possibilities as a trading station, and it remained purely a rendezvous for the protection and refreshment of shipping. The Governorship was often a reward for good service in India, and other offices were filled from time to time by the Company's servants whose health had suffered in the East.

With the disappearance of the Company's administration went its lavish expenditure and its high scale of salaries. The economy of Crown administration and consideration for the British taxpayer ushered in more difficult and less prosperous times for the inhabitants. The substitution of steam for sail and the opening of the Suez Canal meant the ruin of St. Helena as a shipping port. A century ago the number of ships calling each year was five hundred; to-day the number is forty, and in this era of cold storage supplies are rarely needed. More recently the removal of the garrison, in 1906–07, appeared at the time a crushing blow to the island. But the departure of the troops was not an unmixed evil, for it threw the island for the first time on its own resources and led to the creation of the fibre industry on which to-day the welfare of the inhabitants

has come greatly to depend. The future of St. Helena lies in its agriculture and in the character and technical training of its people; it is probable, also, that before long the scenery and the climatic advantages of the island may gain it a reputation as a resort for those who favour quietude and simple living.

St. Helena has become famous in history as the scene of the Emperor Napoleon's exile and death. The house occupied by him at Longwood and the site of the tomb in Sane Valley where his remains lay for twenty years till their removal in 1840 are now in the charge of the French Government, who were granted the freehold in 1858.

From its earliest days St. Helena appears to have been regarded as a place eminently suitable for exile or for the confinement of political prisoners.

The first exile to land on the island was Fernando Lopez in 1513. He was a Portuguese nobleman who had deserted his countrymen in India and turned apostate. Following on a Portuguese success near Goa he was surrendered to Albuquerque on condition that his life should be spared. His nose, his ears, his right hand, and the little finger of his left hand were cut off and he was thus placed on ship for Portugal. Rather than arrive in his country mutilated and disgraced he was at his own request left on shore at St. Helena with a few slaves. He remained on the island for four years, when on instructions from home he was removed to Portugal.

During the administration of the East India Company, St. Helena was selected for the confinement of an offending rajah who, however, did not survive the voyage. On two occasions Zulu rebels, amongst their number Dinizulu, Cetewayo's son, have been received on the island as political prisoners. During the South African War full advantage was taken of St. Helena's natural advantages as a place of internment. About 4,500 prisoners of war, among them General Kronje, were sent to the island. Their presence brought a wave of prosperity to the island, but apart from that happy circumstance the Boers soon gained and have retained the good will and respect of the inhabitants.

St. Helena had intimate associations with the suppression of the slave trade between West Africa and the Americas.

Slave ships captured by British warships were brought to the island for condemnation, and a settlement for freed slaves was founded at Rupert's Bay. A few found employment locally, but about 10,000 were conveyed to the West Indies and British Guiana.

From time to time St. Helena has had the good fortune to attract interesting and eminent visitors. In 1676 Halley, the astronomer, then a student at Oxford, arrived in the island to determine the positions of the fixed stars of the Southern Hemisphere, and left his name behind him in "Halley's Mount." His observations were to some extent, it is said, hampered by mist and cloud. The same fate about one hundred years later, in 1761, awaited the observations

of Dr. Maskelyne and Mr. Waddington, who visited the island to watch the transit of Venus on 6th June.

Captain Cook landed in the island in 1771 and again in 1774. He wrote that "the children and descendents of the English in St. Helena are remarkable for their ruddy complexion and robust constitution." "As for the genius and temper of these people," he observed, "they seemed to be the most hospitable ever met with of English extraction, having scarce any tincture of avarice and ambition."

Darwin arrived in St. Helena on 8th July, 1836. St.Helena, he was of opinion, had existed as an island from a very remote epoch. He remarked on "the English, or rather Welsh, character of the scenery": "When we consider that the number of plants now found on the island is 746, and out of these 52 alone are indigenous species, the rest having been imported, we see the reason of the British character of the vegetation."

In August, 1910, H.R.H. the Duke of Connaught called at the island, while on his way to open the first Parliament of the Union of South Africa, and in August, 1925, H.R.H. the Prince of Wales spent two days at St. Helena on his way from South Africa to South America.

There still remains on the island one survivor of the Napoleonic period, the giant tortoise at Plantation, said by some authorities to be the known oldest living inhabitant of the world. One report states that this tortoise and a companion who died in 1918 were brought to St. Helena during the Governorship of General Beatson, 1808–13, and that they originally belonged to the French Artillery at Port Louis, being handed over to the British with the ordnance and stores at the capitulation of Mauritius in 1810. Mellis, writing in 1875, mentions a report that the tortoises had lived at Plantation for a century or more. When he wrote they appeared to be fully grown, easily carrying a man.

Ascension.

Ascension Island was discovered by the Portuguese on 20th May, 1501. It was given its name by Albuquerque who came there two years later.

Vessels called at the island for the turtles. "The sailors never weary of eating them," wrote Roggewein in 1773, "believing that they make a perfect change of their juices, freeing them entirely from the scurvy and other diseases of the blood."

But there was a less savoury reputation attaching to the place. "As the island is a very miserable place to live in, it is common to leave malefactors here when they do not incline to put them to death."

Ascension remained unoccupied until the British took possession in 1815, at the time Napoleon was brought to St. Helena. A garrison was established on the island; "their tents," wrote La

Trobe the following year, "are placed among heaps of volcanic matter resembling cinder heaps in the neighbourhood of London."

In 1821, marines formed the garrison. The spirit they brought with them appears in a private letter written from the island five years later. "We have everything in abundance and live like aldermen. The gardens which are about six miles off on the Green Mountain produce abundantly. The appearance of the island is certainly deplorable, a mass of black and brown lava ; but it has its comforts which are every day increasing."

Ascension remained under Admiralty control until 12th September, 1922, when its administration was taken over by the Colonial Office and it was made a Dependency of St. Helena.

At the present time Ascension is an important cable station, and it is also the scene of the operations of the St. Helena Colony Development Company, who are interested in the phosphates and minerals on the island. The Mess of the Cable Company have imported a spirit of cheerfulness into the surroundings. Various forms of recreation—cricket, football, golf, tennis, hockey, and bathing—are available. Sea fishing is a popular pastime and there are possibilities of big game fishing.

An interesting feature of the island is Wide-awake Fair, described by Captain Simmonds in the July number of the *National Geographica Magazine*, 1927. "Here is a wonderful city of birds at Wide-awake Fair, on the western corner of the clinker plains. We of the 'Blossom' went to the Fair on numerous occasions during the breeding season and found the birds assembled by the millions on flattened areas between the ragged cones. The eggs were in such close formation on the ground that it was difficult to step without treading on one or more. Upon our approach the birds rose in deafening chorus and hung over our heads in a threatening blanket of wings and sharp bills that darkened the sun. As a curtain of birds swung down with terrible chattering and screeching, we also ducked and huddled in anticipation of an attack." When the young are fledged the birds vanish from the island till the next breeding season. The eggs are considered a delicacy and taste not unlike plovers' eggs.

The constitution of Ascension is the same as that of St. Helena. The Governor and Council of St. Helena have the same powers in relation to Ascension that they possess in relation to St. Helena.

The Superintendent of the Cable Company acts as Resident Magistrate and has a seat on the Council. Officials of the Company perform such administrative duties as may be necessary.

PEOPLE AND LANGUAGE.

With the exception of the English residents and the descendants of English families, settled in the island, the inhabitants are of varied descent. Their ancestors generations ago came from different

parts of the world, but principally from Europe and Asia, and there is difficulty now in tracing any distinctive or prevailing racial element. They are of slight build and of pleasing appearance, they are very law-abiding and are generally praised for their civility and courtesy. In their ideas and sentiments they are essentially and intensely English—as English as is a great deal of the Island scenery.

The language spoken in St. Helena has always been English, and to-day it is remarkable for its purity.

CURRENCY.

By the St. Helena Coinage Order, 1925, all coins which under the Coinage Acts of 1870 and 1891 are legal tender in the United Kingdom, and all silver coins which under the Coinage Act, 1922, are legal tender in the Union of South Africa are legal tender in the island of St. Helena.

WEIGHTS AND MEASURES.

By the Weights and Measures Ordinance, 1905, the weights and measures for the time being lawfully in use in the United Kingdom and no others are to be used in St. Helena.

CLIMATE.

Situated far from any land mass, in the heart of the South-East Trades, and surrounded by the cool waters of the South Atlantic current, St. Helena possesses a mild and equable climate.

There are four seasons in the year, which, however, are not so sharply differentiated as they are in England. Spring is from October to December, summer from January to March, autumn from April to June, winter from July to September.

The length of day varies from 13 hours on 21st December to 11 hours on 21st June.

The sun is vertical on 5th February and on 6th November.

The temperature in the " Coast " zone ranges in summer between 68 degrees and 84 degrees and in winter between 57 degrees and 70 degrees. In the country at about 2,000 feet it is 10 degrees cooler.

In Jamestown, during summer, the heat is sometimes apt to be oppressive. In the country, during winter, fires are often appreciated.

The atmosphere is humid ; the monthly mean at 9 a.m. in the country varies from 89 degrees in January to 92 degrees in September.

The average annual rainfall in Jamestown is about 9 inches and the average number of raindays in the year is about 90. In the country at Plantation, 1,650 feet, the annual average of rainfall over 15 years is 38½ inches, and the average number of raindays 211. On

two occasions during the 15 years the greatest fall in 24 hours amounted to 2 inches; apart from those two occasions the greatest fall did not exceed 1½ inches.

At Plantation the driest months are September to January inclusive, when the average rainfall does not exceed 3 inches each month; the lowest record being .15 and the highest 4.66, both in September. The wettest months are March, May, June, and July, when the average is between 4 and 5 inches; the lowest record being 1.26 in March and the highest being 8.92 in July.

The average force of the wind, which blows almost every day in the year, is 14 miles per hour. On only one occasion in the last 30 years has the wind attained the velocity of 50 miles per hour.

Thunderstorms are of very rare occurrence, the last two recorded being in 1874 and 1888.

Earthquakes in the formidable sense are unknown. Only four "tremors" have been put on record in 400 years.

In the words of Mr. (now Sir Daniel) Morris, who in 1883 reported on the agricultural resources of the island, "St. Helena stands pre-eminent in possessing a remarkably fine and healthy climate. . . In respect to its climate I regard St. Helena as a most valuable station for recruiting health."

The island is completely free from any of the ills associated with tropical or sub-tropical countries. In particular the climate seems an excellent one for young children or elderly persons. It is also considered beneficial for tubercular or lung trouble.

It is generally held that after three or four years a change of environment is desirable.

No particular precautions are needed. The sun very rarely causes any inconvenience, though on occasions during the summer in rare and exceptional seasons of prolonged drought the direct solar heat may be intense. In the last 25 years there has been only one case of fatal result from the effect of sun.

I.—GENERAL.

Two new appointments were made towards the end of the year, a Horticultural Officer from Kew and an Assistant to the Superintendent of Works.

In the past, St. Helena was famous for its fruit, its coffee, and its vegetables. In the days of the East India Company the apples, peaches, mulberries, quinces, were said "to have come to perfection." Some St. Helena coffee shipped to England in 1845 fetched 1*d*. per lb. more than any other description, and a sample sent to the London Exhibition in 1851 obtained the first prize for quality. In more recent years some consignments of potatoes were shipped to the Cape and a report on them from South Africa in 1906 stated "that there

is no doubt that the quality is excellent and that they will command the best figure in the market." It was the opinion, moreover, of Sir Daniel Morris in 1884 that by that date if Mr. Chalmers, who had been sent from Kew in 1869, had not been retrenched later tobacco would have become an established industry.

Since the departure of Mr. Chalmers the St. Helenians in horticultural matters have been left pathetically helpless for want of expert assistance, and horticulture has become derelict.

The appointment now made will, it is confidently anticipated, revive interest in horticulture and improve the position and increase the number of small holders. The limited area, however, available for cultivation makes it unlikely that any export trade on a considerable scale will arise. The market for the local produce will be in the island itself, in Ascension, and in occasional supplies to shipping.

Arrangements are under consideration for a short visit during next year of a Forestry Officer. No systematic forestry has ever been attempted in St. Helena and no report has yet been made by a Forestry Officer. Apart from their influence on climate and soil, trees are needed in St. Helena for fuel and to provide timber for building fencing, etc., and there is little doubt that a re-afforestation scheme launched under expert advice can provide St. Helena with all the timber, including ant-resistant timber, it will ordinarily require.

The law prohibiting the use of motors has been repealed and regulations for motor traffic are now under consideration. It is probable that only light cars and light lorries will be permitted. The new Assistant to the Superintendent of Works is a skilled motor mechanic, and his arrival synchronised with that of a small motor-roller and of a stone-crusher. With a modest programme of expenditure it is anticipated that within three years the island will possess, as regards surface at any rate, first-class roads. For a century the roads have borne wheeled traffic and there is good metal in abundance. In some parts the gradients are stiff and the width is narrow, but the volume of traffic will never be large enough to create difficulty.

Early in next year Mr. Bathgate, late Assistant Director of Works in Nigeria, is visiting the Colony to advise on public works generally, and in particular on a road programme, on water supplies and the possibility, on a very modest scale, of irrigation, to which the physical configuration of the island seems to lend itself.

The water in the island is reported to be excellent, and it is hoped that provision can be made for improving the supplies in the country and for meeting a possible increase in the demand for shipping.

The possibility of obtaining the assistance of a teacher in Domestic Science, seconded for two years from the English Education Department, is under discussion. St. Helena girls when trained make good cooks and domestic servants. Opportunities for their employment offer in Ascension, in South Africa, and occasionally in England. There is little fear that if well trained there will be difficulty in finding them employment.

For the first time in the history of the island a tourist steamer, an American "luxury liner," called at Jamestown at the beginning of the year. The visit was most successful and as a result three tourist steamers are announced as visiting the island next year. In the opinion of some of the more enthusiastic passengers the visit should extend two or three days instead of a few hours, for there is much of interest to see in the island. The lack of an hotel is, however, becoming a serious want.

II.—FINANCE.

The revenue for the year amounted to £15,549, being £454 below the estimate and £2,437 below the revenue for 1927. The sum of £1,000, payable into revenue at the end of the year as minimum royalty by the St. Helena Colony Development Company in connection with their operations at Ascension, was not received in time to be included in the 1927 accounts and there were arrears also of £130 under "Lands," which were paid shortly after the end of the year. There was a decrease of £3,092 in Post Office receipts as compared with 1927, arising from a reduction in the demands of stamp dealers.

The principal items of revenue were :—

	£
Customs...	4,864
Taxes	580
Fines, Fees, etc.	1,501
Post Office	2,651
Lands	998
Investments	427
Miscellaneous	438
Ascension	3,536

Under "Fines and Fees" £1,170 is re-imbursements, being payments for work done by the Admiralty. Court Fines amounted to £7 5*s*. 0*d*. only.

Under "Miscellaneous" is included the sum of £237 refunded by the St. Helena Development Company of the salary of the Controller of Labour at Ascension.

The principal items of expenditure were :—	£
Pensions...	816
Governor	1,136
Secretariat	1,217
Medical and Sanitary	3,107
Education	794
Agriculture and Forests	645
Miscellaneous	835
Public Works Department	899
Public Works Recurrent	2,938
Extraordinary	2,412
Ascension	2,406

Under " Miscellaneous " the sum of £364 is included for depreciation of stores. A large quantity of useless stores, accumulated for some years, has been written off.

Under " Extraordinary " the expenditure for repairs to Government buildings, chiefly Government House, was £1,773, and for road machinery £463.

There were surplus funds at the beginning of 1928 amounting approximately to £5,500. A grant-in-aid of £2,000 was approved by the Treasury, but was not received until the year of account had closed.

The revenue (including grant-in-aid) for the past five years is :—

	Revenue	*including Grant-in-Aid of*	*Expenditure.*
	£	£	£
1924	16,727	4,000	14,182
1925	21,731	7,000	19,566
1926	23,945	2,500	23,154
1927	20,486	2,500	16,740
1928	15,549	—	19,671

A statement of what may be fairly regarded as the ordinary recurrent revenue and expenditure for those years is as follows :—

	Revenue.	*Expenditure.*
	£	£
1924	12,727	13,643
1925	12,537	14,758
1926	13,522	15,224
1927	16,600	15,940
1928	14,162	15,794

In the year 1927 the sum of £5,600 was taken by the Post Office for the sale of stamps.

It appears that the Colony needs an annual grant-in-aid of about £2,000 to balance the ordinary recurrent budget.

Assets and Liabilities.—The statement of assets and liabilities shows an excess of assets over liabilities amounting to £4,195.

Public Debt.—There is no public debt.

Banking.—The Government Savings Bank is the only bank established in the island.

The total number of depositiors during 1928 was 234, as compared with 246 in 1927. The total deposits amounted to £3,641, being £407 decrease in the deposits for the previous year.

Stock to the value of £11,698 (cost price) is held by Government on behalf of depositors. It is proposed to increase these investments by £1,000.

The amount due to depositors on 31st December, 1928, was £16,099

III.—PRODUCTION.

Agriculture and Industries.

The welfare of St. Helena is bound up with the cultivation of the land. This was the opinion of Sir Daniel Morris in 1884, "I look entirely to the soil," he wrote, "for the elements to bring prosperity to St. Helena." The same opinion was expressed nearly 40 years later in a lecture given in Jamestown by Professor Daly of Havard, who had visited St. Helena to study its geology. Mr. Mason, who came from South Africa in 1922 to report on the island's agriculture, came to the conclusion that St. Helena "was a country for the smallholder."

The only industry of importance at the present time is the cultivation of *phormium tenax* (New Zealand flax) and the manufacture of fibre and tow from its leaves.

This plant does not appear in Dr. Roxburgh's list of plants seen by him on the island in 1813–1814. His list, however, does not profess to be complete as his bad state of health during his residence prevented him from compiling a full catalogue.

The first reference so far discoverable is in Mellis' *St. Helena*, 1875, " . . . New Zealand flax with other fibre producing plants all now grow wild, and bear evidence to the very small attention that has been paid by the inhabitants to the soil and its productions, in the fact that none are made use of " ; and again, " New Zealand flax ; grows wild and is common about the highlands. Hitherto the only use made of this plant has been by the market gardeners for tying up bunches of vegetables, etc ; and, although the value of the plant for the fibre it yeilds has long attracted attention, it is only recently that its cultivation has been undertaken with this object in view. During the last year or so a very considerable extent of land has been planted with it."

Flax first appears in the agricultural returns for 1873, when 100 acres were said to be given over to its cultivation. In the following year machinery was set up for the extraction of fibre from aloe and from *phormium tenax*, and from 1875 to 1881 there were exports of fibre from both plants, the highest returns being 100 tons and 83 tons in 1879 and 1880 respectively. Prices then fell, and after 1881 the export ceased.

Sir Daniel Morris in his report of 1883 wrote : "I commend the subject of the extraction of fibre from the New Zealand flax to the careful attention of proprietors in the island . . . obtaining some return from the hundreds of tons of the material now growing uselessly on such extensive tracts in the island." He obtained a report on a sample of New Zealand flax treated by a machine erected by Mr. Deason, "this fibre," the report said, "would be fairly saleable in large quantities."

In the Colonial Report for 1889 in referring to the production of fibre it was explained that the difficulties of obtaining an adequate supply of water and of proper machinery had still to be overcome.

It was not till 1904–5 that serious attention was again given to the production of fibre, when proposals in connection with the matter were mooted from South Africa and England. It was pointed out, however, that any extension of the cultivation of New Zealand flax meant the breaking up of grass and pasture land, and that the preservation of such land was necessary for raising stock for the meat supply of the garrison.

The withdrawal of the garrison in 1906–7 altered the whole situation. In June, 1906, a deputation consisting of Messrs. H. B. Morrice, H. J. Bovell, and H. W. Solomon interviewed the Secretary of State for the Colonies and urged the establishment of a Government flax mill in the island. With the assistance of a grant-in-aid, flax planting was encouraged, an expert was obtained from New Zealand, and the Government mill was opened in 1907. In 1913 Solomon and Co. opened their first mill, followed three years later by Deason Brothers, and in 1923 W. A. Thorpe and Sons also began milling operations. In 1925 the St. Helena Corporation acquired a lease of the Government mill.

At the present time, therefore, there are four firms engaged in fibre production, and there are eleven stripping and scrutching machines operating. There are about 300 people employed in connection with the mills.

The area under the cultivation of *phormium tenax* is estimated at approximately 2,000 acres. The cultivation is suitable for the smallholders and is taken up by them, but by far the greater proportion of the acreage is the property of the millowners themselves.

The export of fibre and tow during the past five years has been in tons :—

	Fibre.	*Value.* £	*Tow.*	*Value.* £
1924	694	27,076	284	7,113
1925	923	33,022	420	10,953
1926	751	25,531	417	10,851
1927	738	24,542	365	7,963
1928	770	22,515	380	6,933

The prices during the year were disappointing, averaging £30 per ton for fibre and £19 10*s.* for tow. At times it was difficult to find buyers and stocks had to remain in the warehouse paying rent.

Mr. Mason in his report (1922) discussed the flax industry. He observed that the war with its enormously inflated prices had given a stimulus to flax planting, that it had been established in suitable and unsuitable places and many of the latter when prices become normal would be likely to go out of cultivation ; that the high prices had led to the planting of ground which under normal conditions would yield much better returns if devoted to the production of

ordinary agricultural crops. He was of opinion that owing to the ease with which money could be made slackness had crept in all round and that a general tightening up of business methods would be necessary if the industry was not to go through a critical stage. He considered that the greatest cause for uneasiness was the general practice of milling leaves too young, and that no time should be lost by the interested parties in putting their house in order. So far as the mills were concerned it would be necessary to study costs and the most economical way of producing fibre. In most cases, he observed, flax did not receive much attention from the time it was planted until it was ready for cutting. A greater yield he thought would result if it was kept free from weeds, especially in the early stages. He strongly recommended some system of grading. On this point Sir Henry Galway had been equally emphatic in the Colonial Report for 1908, " When the flax industry develops to any extent, say in three years' time, it will be imperative for the success of the industry that the Colony has its own grader, and so allow for all the produce exported being graded before shipment. If this is not done it is more than likely that the different mills will send home varying qualities of fibre, and so tend to give the St. Helena article a bad name in the London market."

These questions call for much closer co-operation amongst mill-owners than is apparent at the present time.

For the past few years an attempt has been made by Captain Mainwaring to establish the manufacture of rope and twine out of the local fibre. The export for the last four years has been :—

	Tons.	*Value.* £
1925	32	1,500
1926	$35\frac{1}{20}$	2,105
1927	18	810
1928	$26\frac{1}{2}$	1,246

The successful development of such an enterprise would be of the greatest benefit to the island.

Farming.—The year was a bad one for the farmers owing to drought, the rainfall in the country being 23 inches as compared with an average of 38.5.

Fisheries.—At one time an attempt was made to start a fish-curing industry in the island, but the project failed. It is thought that supplies of fish are not more than sufficient for local needs.

Lace-making.—This industry was started in St. Helena in 1897 by Mrs. Jackson, a resident in the island. She had been impressed with its possibility as an industry for women and girls from the success which had attended a similar enterprise in Madagascar. In 1907 the Imperial Treasury gave a grant to assist and develop the industry, and an Association was formed under the presidency of the Bishop with a committee of ladies to assist in the management.

The Association dissolved the following year and the industry passed into Government control. A Government lace school was established and Miss Girdwood was appointed Manageress. She soon came to the opinion that the talent of the St. Helenian was strongly in favour of the needle rather than the pillow. Reports on the work of the school were encouraging and it was considered worth while to adopt old Italian patterns and to aim at production of a high quality. It was stated in 1914 that the laces were of excellent quality and workmanship, were chiefly of Florentine and old Italian designs, and that but for the outbreak of war the school would have shown a substantial profit. In 1916 Miss Girdwood was compelled on account of ill-health to resign her appointment ; the school then closed and has not since been re-opened. Messrs. Solomon and Co. have opened a depot in town where the lace can now be purchased, but the St. Helena lace finds difficulty in competing with machine-made lace and with work of cheaper quality.

Ascension.

The only export from Ascension at the present time is that of turtles. The average number of turtles annually exported during the past five years is 37. In former years the export was on a considerable scale, 750 turtles being exported in 1834, 600 in 1850, and 650 in 1853.

Investigations are being made into the possibilities of exploiting the minerals and the phosphates on the island. It is possible also that a fish-curing industry may soon be successfully established, for fish appear to abound in the waters of the island.

IV.—TRADE AND ECONOMICS.

The total value of the overseas trade of the Colony in 1928 amounted to £80,307 as compared with £83,952 in 1927.

The Customs revenue amounted to £4,863 as against £5,011 in 1927, the difference being due mainly to the fact that in 1927 two years' supply of paraffin had been imported.

Imports.

The value of imports during the year was £49,030, distributed as follows :—

	£
United Kingdom	39,735
South Africa	7,595
Foreign countries	1,700
	£49,030

The imports from South Africa and foreign countries are food, drink, and tobacco.

The principal differences as compared with 1927 were :—

Increases—	£
Coal and Coke	305
Earthenware and Glassware	323
Drapery and Dry Goods	1,796
Flour	1,475
Hardware Metal, &c.	232
Machinery	605
Stationery	302
Sugar	296
Decreases—	
Butter and Margarine	235
Foodstuffs (unenumerated)	1,135
Paraffin Oil	1,187
Rice	890
Timber	529
Wine	270

Government imports in 1928 were valued at £2,713, excluding munitions of war, as against £1,827 in 1927.

Exports.

The value of exports in 1928 was £31,267, as against £34,274 in 1927, distributed as follows :—

	£
United Kingdom	29,321
South Africa	1,946

The exports to the United Kingdom and South Africa are classified as follows :—

	United Kingdom. £	*South Africa.* £
Raw material	28,691	1,330
Manufactured articles	630	616

The principal differences in value as compared with 1927 are :—

Increases—	£
Rope and Twine	436
Hides	148
Decreases—	
Fibre	2,027
Tow	1,030
Specie	391

The quantities of fibre and tow exported in 1928 were 770 tons and 380 tons respectively, as compared with 738 tons and 365 tons in 1927. The value of fibre and tow had fallen considerably in 1928.

V.—COMMUNICATIONS.

Shipping.

The number of ships calling at St. Helena and Ascension during the year was 35, as compared with 39 in 1927.

The ships were classified as follows :—

Mail steamers	25
British warship	1
Other vessels	9

The tonnage entered and cleared was 132,315, as compared with 143,131 in 1927.

The only steamship line calling regularly at St. Helena and Ascension is the Union-Castle Line, which carries mails outward and homeward once a month.

Roads.

There are about 60 miles of road to be maintained in St. Helena, and the expenditure on this service in 1928 was £803 16*s.* 2*d.*

During the year, the Ordinance prohibiting motor traffic was repealed and at the end of the year a motor-roller and a stone-crusher were imported.

Posts, Telegraphs, and Telephones.

Postal communication is monthly between St. Helena and England and between St. Helena and South Africa.

There has been a slight general decrease during 1928 in the business of the Post Office as compared with 1927.

The statistics are :—

	1927	1928
From England—		
No. of bags Mail	228	224
Parcels	1,697	1,448
Registered Articles	1,133	928
Money and Postal Orders ...	£1,736	£1,578
To England—		
No. of bags Mail	73	66
Parcels	165	123
Registered Articles	2,049	1,783
Money and Postal Orders ...	£6,362	£6,039
From South Africa—		
No. of bags Mail	15	12
Parcels	428	408
Registered Articles	497	449
Money and Postal Orders ...	£324	£420
To South Africa—		
No. of bags Mail	19	14
Parcels	142	142
Registered Articles	511	451
Money and Postal Orders ...	£1,546	£1,463

The Eastern Telegraph Company have cable stations at St. Helena and Ascension, where messages are accepted for all parts of the world.

There is no internal post or telegraph service.

A telephone system is maintained by private subscribers, the rate per instrument being £5 per annum.

The number of instruments is 33 ; there are 41 miles of wire. The revenue during 1928 was £178 against an expenditure of £139.

VI.—JUSTICE, POLICE, AND PRISONS.

There was one case before the Supreme Court, a case of wounding which resulted in a conviction and a sentence of nine months' imprisonment.

The number of cases reported to the Police was 152. In 86 cases action was taken in the Court, resulting in 38 convictions and one committal to the Supreme Court.

Of these convictions, thirteen were for offences against Ordinances relating to the social economy of the island, nine for offences against the person, six were for larceny, and the others were for minor offences.

During the year, there were four whippings in the case of boys convicted for stealing.

There were fourteen cases in the Small Debts Court.

Gaol.

The number of persons committed to prison during the year was ten, and one was placed on remand. The number in custody on 31st December, 1928, was three.

VII.—PUBLIC WORKS.

The Public Works Department embarked during the year on an extensive programme of repairs to Government buildings, estimated to cost £8,600. The programme comprises the re-construction of Plantation (Government House), and extensive repairs to the Castle and the Hospital. The programme will be carried out with local labour, and for the woodwork American cypress has been imported, as it has a local reputation for being ant-resistant.

A start has been made with Plantation which, owing to the depredations of white ants, had become too ruinous and dangerous for further occupation. It was handed over to the Department at the end of March when the Governor went on leave. Until its restoration is carried through the Governor will reside at Prince's Lodge, a bungalow in the neighbourhood.

Current Repairs, etc.—Unanticipated expenditure to the amount of £150 became necessary in the course of the year ; £90 for the

construction of a buttress wall in Rupert's Valley to protect buildings there from the dangers of erosion, and £60 for the completion of the repairs to the Nurses' and Probationers' Quarters.

Roads.—A motor-roller and a stone-crusher arrived at the end of the year, and when they are in full commission it is hoped that there will be considerable improvement in the condition of the roads and considerable saving in the cost of maintenance.

Water.—Special attention was given to the Longwood and Hospital supplies, and the demands of shipping were met without serious difficulty.

Transport.—The drought made it nescesary to purchase additional supplies of forage for the animals. In a short time it is proposed to introduce mechanical transport.

At the end of the year an Assistant Superintendent of Works arrived who is a trained motor mechanic.

Horticulture.

The agricultural and horticultural duties hitherto assigned to the Superintendent of Works were taken over by the Horticultural Officer who arrived in November.

The "Scotland" estate of about ten acres was purchased for Botanical Gardens.

Before the year closed, a start was made with the restoration of the Town Gardens, which for years have been left derelict.

VIII.—PUBLIC HEALTH.

Vital Statistics.

The estimated civil population of St. Helena on the 31st December, 1928, was 3,797, as against 3,754 on the same date in the previous year.

The deaths in St. Helena during the year numbered 69, as against 63 in 1927, the death-rate being 18.17 per 1,000 as against 16.78 in 1927. The death-rate for the past ten years has averaged 11.42 per 1,000.

The deaths in 1928 according to age were—

Under 1 year	19
Between 1—10 years	5
,, 10—30 ,, ...	7
,, 30—60 ,, ...	6
,, 70—80 ,, ...	12
Over 80	15

There were 123 births, as against 99 in 1927, giving a birth-rate of 32.39 per thousand against 26.55 in 1927.

There were 31 marriages, as compared with 36 in 1927.

In Ascension the population was 213, of whom 137 are St. Helenians There were no deaths and there was one birth.

Health.

During the year there was a mild epidemic of whooping cough and a few cases of chicken pox.

Cases of water-borne disease, ascaris, have been found at Level Wood, one of the country districts. While the water supply of Jamestown is satisfactory, there are certain country districts where improvement is desirable and possible.

The Dentist has visited all the schools. He has made 1,543 extractions of temporary teeth and 579 extractions of permanent teeth. He considers the teeth of the children have suffered from lack of attention and from a soft dietary.

IX.—EDUCATION.

There are eight primary schools on the island. Three are government schools, three are maintained by the Hussey Charity, one by the Benevolent Society, and one by the Bishop's Diocesan Fund. These schools provide for 680 children.

A Government grant of £100 is given to the Hussey Charity Schools, of £20 to the Benevolent Society School, and of £15 to the Diocesan Fund School.

There is a carpentry class in the Government boys' school; and school gardens, under the supervision of the Horticultural Officer, will shortly be started.

There is no secondary or technical education. As regards the latter, the extensive programme of public works and the establishment of a Horticultural Department will provide some opportunities for training boys. In the case of girls it is proposed if funds are available to open a school for domestic economy under the management of a trained teacher.

Church Lads' Brigade.—In the country there is a company of the Church Lads' Brigade consisting of 54, all ranks, and 26 training corps.

Boy Scouts.—In Jamestown there is a troop of Boy Scouts consisting of a scoutmaster, two assistant scoutmasters, six patrols of eight boys each, and a small pack of six wolf cubs.

During the year a camp was held, the expenses being met from a concert given by the Scouts.

Girl Guides.—There is a Town company consisting of sixty Guides and Brownies, and a Country company of forty-three Guides and Brownies. With officers and Rangers the Guides number about 150.

X.—LANDS.

Sir Daniel Morris estimated the area of St. Helena to be 28,000 acres, " Of this area probably 20,000 acres or more than two-thirds are composed of barren rocky wastes or clayey slopes totally unfit in their present condition for any agricultural operations." More recent estimates give the area of agricultural and pastural lands as 10,000 acres.

The multiplicity of records and the diversity of titles introduce some degree of confusion into the tenure of land in the island.

Among the terms in the early days of the East India Company under which land was granted to " the planters, their heirs, and assignees for ever " was the condition " An Englishman to be kept on every ten acres, and to take his turn to appear in arms on guard." Appearance on guard, watch and ward, as it was termed, was commuted as early as 1683 for a payment of 2*s.* an acre, subsequently reduced to 1*s.* an acre. As regards the maintenance of an Englishman on every ten acres, the Court of Directors sent instructions in 1717 " not to enforce too rigorously " this condition.

The lands which bore this charge of 1*s.* an acre became known as " free " lands.

The Company also granted leases. In 1828 the Court conveyed to the Governor their approval of the conversion of leaseholds into permanent tenure, " We are . . . prepared to sanction the grant to such of the parties now holding temporary leases as may by their management of the property and the buildings they have erected have proved themselves worthy of the boon of a permanent title to the lands, with a reservation, however, of our right in each case, when the public service may demand it, to resume possession of the land upon the payment of its valuation, to be assessed by a jury, providing also that a quit rent varying from 3*s.* per acre to 6*d.* per acre to be in like manner assessed."

These lands became known locally as " permanent tenure " land.

Lastly, under a Proclamation dated the 7th of August, 1843, the Government gave notice that it would commute the ground rents of the several tenures into rent-free grants at 10 or 12½ years rental according to the nature of the tenure. A considerable number of grantees took advantage of this offer. It does not appear that the right of Government to resume for public purposes was made a condition in this scheme of commutation.

There is still a considerable area of Government land on lease, and during recent years a number of small plots have been granted to smallholders, originally for growing flax. In the past five years a hundred leases have been granted.

The number of properties on the Government rent roll amounts to 427, and the rents yield an annual revenue of £1,284.

It is difficult to arrive at the market value of land owing to the paucity of transactions, but from £7 10*s.* to £10 an acre would not be an unreasonable price for cultivated land.

The only legislation dealing with land is Ordinance No. 1 of 1893, to simplify conveyancing and titles to land and to provide for registration.

XI.—LABOUR AND COST OF LIVING.

Wages for skilled or semi-skilled workmen are from 3*s.* 6*d.* to 5*s.* 6*d.* per day, wages for unskilled labour vary from 2*s.* to 2*s.* 6*d.* a day as compared with 1 *s.* 6*d.* to 2*s.* at the end of 1913. Women are paid 1*s.* to 1*s.* 3*d.* a day.

The day for men is from 7 a.m. to 5 p.m., and for women from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. A week for men is 60 hours.

The Government pay unskilled labour at the rate of 2*s.* 6*d.* a day of eight hours, and the week is 45 hours.

In domestic service wages for housemaids vary from 10*s.* to £2 per month, for cooks from 30*s.* to £4 per month, and for male servants from 30*s.* to £4 15*s.* per month. Grooms and gardeners receive 2*s.* 6*d.* a day.

Insurance against sickness and death and for funeral expenses has been for many years a feature in the social economy of the island. There are four Friendly Societies for men, with a total membership of 1,660. Two of these Societies have been established for nearly one hundred years. There is a Friendly Society for women, with a membership of 230, established in 1878.

The cost of the principal articles of consumption during the year under review was as follows :—

Meat 1*s.* per lb.
Fish cheap and good.
Eggs 2*s.* per dozen.
Butter Fresh 2*s.* 6*d.*, tinned 1*s.* 8*d.* and 2*s.* 6*d.*
Bread 5*d.* per 1½ lb. loaf.
Milk 4*d.* per bottle.
Tea 3*s.* per lb.
Coffee 1*s.* 6*d.*—2*s.* 6*d.*
Sugar 3½*d.* per lb.
Rice 3½*d.* per lb.
Tobacco 11*s.* per lb.
Whiskey 6*s.* 9*d.*—8*s.* 9*d.* per bottle.
Kerosene 15*s.*—22*s.* per case.

XII.—MISCELLANEOUS.

Meteorology.

At Hutt's Gate, 1,900 ft., where the principal observations are taken, the rainfall for the year was 25.28 inches, the lowest recorded for many years. The average yearly rainfall is 40 inches. The heaviest fall was 1.2 on 19th March. In Jamestown at sea-level the rainfall for the year was 7.001, and the heaviest fall was .049 on 26th March.

Upper air observations by means of pilot balloons were taken during the year at Hutt's Gate on behalf of the Air Ministry. Their object was to determine the nature of the winds overlying the Trades.

During the year there was no electrical disturbances visible to the naked eye.

At Ascension the rainfall at Green Mountain, about 1,900 ft., was 35.24 inches, and at Georgetown, sea-level, 3 inches.

Legislation.

Seven Ordinances, two Proclamations, and four Orders in Council were issued during the year.

The principal Ordinances were :—

No. I.—The Immigration (St. Helena) Ordinance, controlling immigration into St. Helena and giving powers of deportation.

No. V.—The Fisheries and Fish Products (Export) Ordinance, to provide for the taking and curing of fish for export, and the manufacture for export of fish products.

No. VII.—The Motor Car Ordinance, for the regulation of the use of motor-cars.

Staff.

It is proposed to amalgamate the four offices of Law Officer, etc., Chief Clerk, Treasurer, and Collector of Customs into two appointments, that of Government Secretary holding a seat on the Council, who will carry out the duties of Law Officer, etc., and Chief Clerk, and that of Treasurer who will perform the functions of Treasurer and Collector of Customs.

To the latter office Mr. Cullen, Collector of Customs, was appointed from 28th September.

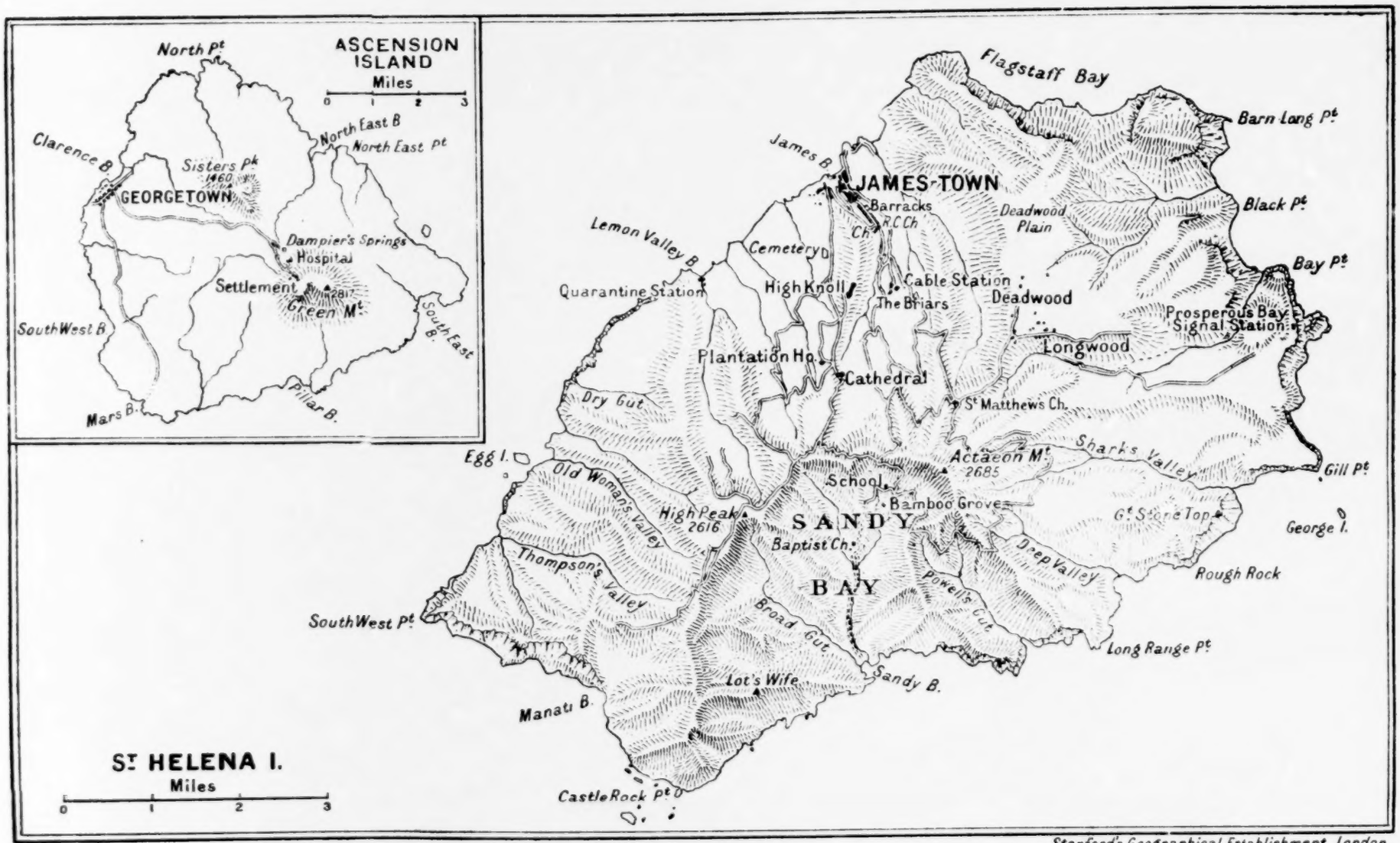
The number of Nursing Sisters at the Hospital has been reduced from four to two, and three St. Helena girls are in training as Probationers.

Two new appointments were created during the year. Mr. Bruinslich from Kew Gardens was appointed as Horticultural Officer, and Mr. Withecombe was appointed Assistant Superintendent of Works.

Mr. Bruce retired as Postmaster and was succeeded by Mr. G. Moss, formerly Comptroller of Customs of Northern Rhodesia.

Dr. Cartwright was succeeded as Colonial Surgeon by Dr. Carleton.

Mr. Pink the Treasurer was transferred to St. Lucia. Miss Scott, Nursing Sister, resigned.



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ST. HELENA.

ANNUAL REPORT FOR THE YEAR 1929.

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SITUATION AND AREA.

The Colony of St. Helena consists of the Island of St. Helena with the Island of Ascension as a Dependency.

St. Helena.

St. Helena lies in latitude 15.55 South and longitude 5.42 West. It is about 950 miles due south of the Equator, 4,000 miles from England, and 1,700 miles from Cape Town. The voyage from England occupies from 14 to 17 days, and from Cape Town from five to six days.

The area of the island is 47 square miles. The population is about 3,800, of whom about 1,500 live in Jamestown, the port and only town in the island.

St. Helena is of volcanic origin. The latest account of its geology is a report by Professor Daly of Harvard University, who visited the island at the end of 1921. This report appears in the *Proceedings of the American Academy of Arts and Sciences* Vol. 62 No. 2, March, 1927. Professor Daly is of the opinion that St. Helena dates from pre-Glacial time, and is probably pre-Pliocene.

The aspect of St. Helena from the sea is forbidding. It rises abruptly in bare cliffs, which vary in height from 400 to 2,000 ft. The face of this wall of rock is cut by deep narrow gorges.

Above the cliffs the ground rises in a fairly regular slope, but with numerous valleys, to a ridge lying across the middle of the island. This ridge is serrated in form ; its general altitude is about 2,000 feet, but two of its peaks, easily accessible and affording magnificent views, rise to 2,700 feet.

The island has been divided into three zones, " Coast," " Middle," and " Central."

The " Coast " zone extends from about a mile to a mile and a-half round the island. Except in some of the valleys, where fruit and vegetables may be grown, the only vegetation is prickly pear.

The " Middle " zone, at an altitude of 400 to 1,800 feet, succeeds the " Coast " zone. The hills and valleys and pleasing scenery in the higher levels of this area are suggestive of parts of Wales and Devon. Oaks, Scotch pines, gorse, and blackberries flourish there, and in 1926 at Plantation during a prolonged winter some primroses made their appearance.

The " Central " zone, about three miles long by two miles wide, is ground each side of the central ridge, the highest ground in the island. In some parts the ground is precipitous, in others undulating with grassy slopes.

Ascension.

Ascension Island lies in latitude 7.53 South and longitude 14.18 West, about 700 miles north-west of St. Helena. It has an area of 34 square miles. The population consists of European and St. Helenian employees of the Eastern Cable Company and of the St. Helena Development Company. On the 31st of December, 1929, the population numbered 220, of whom 145 were St. Helenians.

The island is of volcanic origin, and, as in the case of St. Helena, the most recent account of its geology is a report by Professor Daly which appeared in the *Proceedings of the American Academy of Arts and Sciences*, Vol. 60, No. 1, June, 1925. Professor Daly observes that from the time of its discovery no sign of volcanic activity, not even a hot spring, has been reported though geologically the island is extremely young. He thinks it possible that the whole mass above sea-level has been erupted during post-Glacial time.

From the sea Ascension appears bleak and desolate. Green Mountain, however, 2,800 feet high, relieves with its vegetation the barren and depressing effect of the larger part of the island and affords pasture for about 600 sheep and cattle.

HISTORY.

St. Helena.

There is an abundance of interesting historical and descriptive records concerning St. Helena. The archives of the Administration from 1678 are preserved at the Castle ; among them is the original of the instrument " The Laws and Constitution of the Island of St. Helena " issued by Charles II in 1681.

The island was discovered on 21st May, 1502, St. Helena's day, by Juan de Nova Castella, Commodore of a Portuguese squadron returning from India. The Portuguese made no attempt to make a colony of the island but were content to maintain it as a place of " refreshment " for their ships by planting fruit trees and vegetables and introducing goats, pigs, and wildfowl, including pheasants and partridges. It was the practice of the Portuguese to land on the island sick persons of a ship's company, " whom they suspect will not live till they get home ; these they leave to refresh themselves, and take away the year following, with the other fleet, if they live so long."

The discovery of the island is said to have been kept a secret until the Englishman, Captain Cavendish, returning from a voyage round the world, anchored there on 8th June, 1588. He found on the island a great abundance of fruit and vegetables, thousands of goats, a great store of swine and wild fowl (the pheasants " big and fat surpassing those which are in our country in bigness and numbers in a company "). He found also " divers handsome buildings and houses, one, particularly, was a church tiled, and whitened on the outside very fair." The only human inhabitants were three slaves and from them Captain Cavendish learnt the news that " the East Indian fleet all laden with spices and Callicut cloth, with store of treasure, and very rich stones and pearls, were gone but twenty days before we came hither."

St. Helena now became a place for " the English, Portugals, Spaniards, and Hollanders to refresh themselves in going, but, for the most part, in returning from the Indies, it being sufficient to furnish ships with provisions for their voyage, here being salt to preserve the meat from stinking ; and besides the air is so healthful that they often left their sick people there, who, in a short time, are restored to perfect health." " The greatest convenience of this island for ships " reported an English seaman " is the plenty and goodness of the water."

Eventually in 1645 the Dutch assumed possession of the island, but a few years later abandoned it to establish themselves at the Cape of Good Hope. Their place in St. Helena was taken by the English and in 1661 the Crown granted to the East India Company a charter for its administration.

According to some accounts the island was recaptured in 1665 by the Dutch, who were expelled the same year. They seized it again in 1672. The English Governor and his followers made their

escape in English and French ships to Brazil. There they met an English squadron under the command of Captain (afterwards Sir Richard) Munden, who determined to recover possession of the island. He arrived off St. Helena on the evening of 14th May, 1673, and was fortunate in finding that no look-out was being kept. He landed a shore party at Prosperous Bay, as it came to be called in commemoration of the exploit. There the most active man of the party climbed up a precipice, taking with him a ball of twine to which was attached a rope by means of which the rest of the party were hauled up. The cliff thereafter became known as "Holdfast Tom," the urgent admonition of his comrades to the intrepid climber. As the ships appeared off Jamestown the landing party reached the heights above the town and the Dutch surrendered without striking a blow.

St. Helena reverted by conquest to the possession of the Crown. In December of 1673 a new charter was granted to the East India Company and, with the exception of the term of Napoleon's exile, the island continued under the Company's administration until 22nd April, 1834, when it was brought under the direct control of the Crown.

The Colony is now administered by a Governor aided by an Executive Council. The Governor alone makes ordinances, there being no legislative council, but power is reserved to legislate by Order of His Majesty in Council.

The East India Company, in the terms of their Charter of 1673, attached importance to the island as "very necessary and commodious for refreshing their servants and people in theire retournes homewards, being often then weak and decayed in their health by reason of their long voyages under their hott clymes." This service the island continued to render during the period of the Company's administration. It had no possibilities as a trading station, and it remained purely a rendezvous for the protection and refreshment of shipping. The Governorship was often a reward for good service in India, and other offices were filled from time to time by the Company's servants whose health had suffered in the East.

With the disappearance of the Company's administration went its lavish expenditure and its high scale of salaries. The economy of Crown administration and consideration for the British taxpayer ushered in more difficult and less prosperous times for the inhabitants. The substitution of steam for sail and the opening of the Suez Canal meant the ruin of St. Helena as a shipping port. A century ago the number of ships calling each year was five hundred; to-day the number is forty, and in this era of cold storage supplies are rarely needed. More recently the removal of the garrison, in 1906–07, appeared at the time a crushing blow to the island. But the departure of the troops was not an unmixed evil, for it threw the island for the first time on its own resources and led to the creation of the fibre industry on which to-day the welfare of the inhabitants

has come greatly to depend. The future of St. Helena lies in its agriculture and in the character and technical training of its people; it is probable, also, that before long the scenery and the climatic advantages of the island may gain it a reputation as a resort for those who favour quietude and simple living.

St. Helena has become famous in history as the scene of the Emperor Napoleon's exile and death. The house occupied by him at Longwood and the site of the tomb in Sane Valley where his remains lay for twenty years till their removal in 1840 are now in the charge of the French Government, who were granted the freehold in 1858.

From its earliest days St. Helena appears to have been regarded as a place eminently suitable for exile or for the confinement of political prisoners.

The first exile to land on the island was Fernando Lopez in 1513. He was a Portuguese nobleman who had deserted his countrymen in India and turned apostate. Following on a Portuguese success near Goa he was surrendered to Albuquerque on condition that his life should be spared. His nose, his ears, his right hand, and the little finger of his left hand were cut off and he was thus placed on ship for Portugal. Rather than arrive in his country mutilated and disgraced he was at his own request left on shore at St. Helena with a few slaves. He remained on the island for four years, when on instructions from home he was removed to Portugal.

During the administration of the East India Company, St. Helena was selected for the confinement of an offending rajah who, however, did not survive the voyage. On two occasions Zulu rebels, amongst their number Dinizulu, Cetewayo's son, have been received on the island as political prisoners. During the South African War full advantage was taken of St. Helena's natural advantages as a place of internment. About 4,500 prisoners of war, among them General Kronje, were sent to the island. Their presence brought a wave of prosperity to the island, but apart from that happy circumstance the Boers soon gained and have retained the good will and respect of the inhabitants.

St. Helena had intimate associations with the suppression of the slave trade between West Africa and the Americas.

Slave ships captured by British warships were brought to the island for condemnation, and a settlement for freed slaves was founded at Rupert's Bay. A few found employment locally, but about 10,000 were conveyed to the West Indies and British Guiana.

From time to time St. Helena has had the good fortune to attract interesting and eminent visitors. In 1676 Halley, the astronomer, then a student at Oxford, arrived in the island to determine the positions of the fixed stars of the Southern Hemisphere, and left his name behind him in "Halley's Mount." His observations were to some extent, it is said, hampered by mist and cloud. The same fate about one hundred years later, in 1761, awaited the observations

of Dr. Maskelyne and Mr. Waddington, who visited the island to watch the transit of Venus on 6th June.

Captain Cook landed in the island in 1771 and again in 1774. He wrote that "the children and descendents of the English in St. Helena are remarkable for their ruddy complexion and robust constitution." "As for the genius and temper of these people," he observed, "they seemed to be the most hospitable ever met with of English extraction, having scarce any tincture of avarice and ambition."

Darwin arrived in St. Helena on 8th July, 1836. St.Helena, he was of opinion, had existed as an island from a very remote epoch. He remarked on "the English, or rather Welsh, character of the scenery": "When we consider that the number of plants now found on the island is 746, and out of these 52 alone are indigenous species, the rest having been imported, we see the reason of the British character of the vegetation."

In August, 1910, H.R.H. the Duke of Connaught called at the island, while on his way to open the first Parliament of the Union of South Africa, and in August, 1925, H.R.H. the Prince of Wales spent two days at St. Helena on his way from South Africa to South America.

There still remains on the island one survivor of the Napoleonic period, the giant tortoise at Plantation, said by some authorities to be the known oldest living inhabitant of the world. One report states that this tortoise and a companion who died in 1918 were brought to St. Helena during the Governorship of General Beatson, 1808–13, and that they originally belonged to the French Artillery at Port Louis, being handed over to the British with the ordnance and stores at the capitulation of Mauritius in 1810. Mellis, writing in 1875, mentions a report that the tortoises had lived at Plantation for a century or more. When he wrote they appeared to be fully grown, easily carrying a man.

Ascension.

Ascension Island was discovered by the Portuguese on 20th May, 1501. It was given its name by Albuquerque who came there two years later.

Vessels called at the island for the turtles. "The sailors never weary of eating them," wrote Roggewein in 1773, "believing that they make a perfect change of their juices, freeing them entirely from the scurvy and other diseases of the blood."

But there was a less savoury reputation attaching to the place. "As the island is a very miserable place to live in, it is common to leave malefactors here when they do not incline to put them to death."

Ascension remained unoccupied until the British took possession in 1815, at the time Napoleon was brought to St. Helena. A garrison was established on the island; "their tents," wrote La

Trobe the following year, "are placed among heaps of volcanic matter resembling cinder heaps in the neighbourhood of London."

In 1821, marines formed the garrison. The spirit they brought with them appears in a private letter written from the island five years later. "We have everything in abundance and live like aldermen. The gardens which are about six miles off on the Green Mountain produce abundantly. The appearance of the island is certainly deplorable, a mass of black and brown lava; but it has its comforts which are every day increasing."

Ascension remained under Admiralty control until 12th September, 1922, when its administration was taken over by the Colonial Office and it was made a Dependency of St. Helena.

At the present time Ascension is an important cable station, and it is also the scene of the operations of the St. Helena Colony Development Company, who are interested in the phosphates and minerals on the island. The Mess of the Cable Company have imported a spirit of cheerfulness into the surroundings. Various forms of recreation—cricket, football, golf, tennis, hockey, and bathing—are available. Sea fishing is a popular pastime and there are possibilities of big game fishing.

An interesting feature of the island is Wide-awake Fair, described by Captain Simmonds in the July number of the *National Geographica Magazine*, 1927. "Here is a wonderful city of birds at Wide-awake Fair, on the western corner of the clinker plains. We of the 'Blossom' went to the Fair on numerous occasions during the breeding season and found the birds assembled by the millions on flattened areas between the ragged cones. The eggs were in such close formation on the ground that it was difficult to step without treading on one or more. Upon our approach the birds rose in deafening chorus and hung over our heads in a threatening blanket of wings and sharp bills that darkened the sun. As a curtain of birds swung down with terrible chattering and screeching, we also ducked and huddled in anticipation of an attack." When the young are fledged the birds vanish from the island till the next breeding season. The eggs are considered a delicacy and taste not unlike plovers' eggs.

The constitution of Ascension is the same as that of St. Helena. The Governor and Council of St. Helena have the same powers in relation to Ascension that they possess in relation to St. Helena.

The Superintendent of the Cable Company acts as Resident Magistrate and has a seat on the Council. Officials of the Company perform such administrative duties as may be necessary.

PEOPLE AND LANGUAGE.

With the exception of the English residents and the descendants of English families, settled in the island, the inhabitants are of varied descent. Their ancestors generations ago came from different

parts of the world, but principally from Europe and Asia, and there is difficulty now in tracing any distinctive or prevailing racial element. They are of slight build and of pleasing appearance, they are very law-abiding and are generally praised for their civility and courtesy. In their ideas and sentiments they are essentially and intensely English—as English as is a great deal of the Island scenery.

The language spoken in St. Helena has always been English, and to-day it is remarkable for its purity.

CURRENCY.

By the St. Helena Coinage Order, 1925, all coins which under the Coinage Acts of 1870 and 1891 are legal tender in the United Kingdom, and all silver coins which under the Coinage Act, 1922, are legal tender in the Union of South Africa are legal tender in the island of St. Helena.

WEIGHTS AND MEASURES.

By the Weights and Measures Ordinance, 1905, the weights and measures for the time being lawfully in use in the United Kingdom and no others are to be used in St. Helena.

CLIMATE.

Situated far from any land mass, in the heart of the South-East Trades, and surrounded by the cool waters of the South Atlantic current, St. Helena possesses a mild and equable climate.

There are four seasons in the year, which, however, are not so sharply differentiated as they are in England. Spring is from October to December, summer from January to March, autumn from April to June, winter from July to September.

The length of day varies from 13 hours on 21st December to 11 hours on 21st June.

The sun is vertical on 5th February and on 6th November.

The temperature in the "Coast" zone ranges in summer between 68 degrees and 84 degrees and in winter between 57 degrees and 70 degrees. In the country at about 2,000 feet it is 10 degrees cooler.

In Jamestown, during summer, the heat is sometimes apt to be oppressive. In the country, during winter, fires are often appreciated.

The atmosphere is humid; the monthly mean at 9 a.m. in the country varies from 89 degrees in January to 92 degrees in September.

The average annual rainfall in Jamestown is about 9 inches and the average number of raindays in the year is about 90. In the country at Plantation, 1,650 feet, the annual average of rainfall over 17 years is 30·78 inches, and the average number of raindays 194. On

two occasions during the last 15 years the greatest fall in 24 hours amounted to 2 inches; apart from those two occasions the greatest fall did not exceed 1½ inches.

At Plantation the driest months are October to January inclusive, when the average rainfall is under 2 inches each month; The wettest months are March, May, June, and July, when the average is 4 inches; the lowest record being 1.26 in March and the highest being 8.92 in July.

The average force of the wind, which blows almost every day in the year, is 14 miles per hour. On only one occasion in the last 30 years has the wind attained the velocity of 50 miles per hour.

Thunderstorms are of very rare occurrence, the last two recorded being in 1874 and 1888.

Earthquakes in the formidable sense are unknown. Only four "tremors" have been put on record in 400 years.

In the words of Mr. (now Sir Daniel) Morris, who in 1883 reported on the agricultural resources of the island, "St. Helena stands pre-eminent in possessing a remarkably fine and healthy climate. . . In respect to its climate I regard St. Helena as a most valuable station for recruiting health."

The island is completely free from any of the ills associated with tropical or sub-tropical countries. In particular the climate seems an excellent one for young children or elderly persons. It is also considered beneficial for tubercular or lung trouble.

It is generally held that after three or four years a change of environment is desirable.

No particular precautions are needed. The sun very rarely causes any inconvenience, though on occasions during the summer in rare and exceptional seasons of prolonged drought the direct solar heat may be intense. In the last 25 years there has been only one case of fatal result from the effect of sun.

1.—GENERAL.

In the past St. Helena was famous for its fruit, its coffee, and its vegetables. In the days of the East India Company the apples, mulberries, quinces, were said "to have come to perfection." Some St. Helena coffee shipped to England in 1845 fetched 1d. per lb. more than any other description, and a sample sent to the London Exhibition in 1851 obtained the first prize for quality. In more recent years consignments of potatoes were shipped to the Cape and a report on them in 1906 stated "there is no doubt the quality is excellent and they will command the best figure in the market." It was the opinion, moreover, of Sir Daniel Morris in

1884 that by that date if Mr. Chalmers, who had been sent from Kew in 1869, had not soon after been retrenched, the cultivation of tobacco would have become an established industry.

The departure of Mr. Chalmers left the St. Helenians, in horticultural matters, pathetically helpless, and horticulture became derelict.

The appointment last year of an officer from Kew has raised some hope of revival of interest in horticulture and of increasing the number and establishing the position of small holders. The limited area of land, however, available for cultivation makes it unlikely that any export trade on a considerable scale is possible. The market for the local produce will be in the island itself, in Ascension, and in occasional supplies to ships.

It may be possible in the near future to arrange for a short visit to the Colony of a Forestry Officer. No systematic forestry has ever been attempted in St. Helena and no report has yet been made by a Forestry Officer. Apart from their influence on climate and soil, trees are needed in St. Helena for fuel and to provide timber for building, fencing, etc., and there is little doubt that a reafforestation scheme launched under expert advice can provide St. Helena with all the timber, including ant-resistant varieties, it will ordinarily require.

The possibility of obtaining a teacher in Domestic Science will be considered when funds become available. St. Helena girls when trained make good cooks and domestic servants. Opportunities for their employment offer in Ascension, in South Africa, and occasionally in England. There is little fear that if well trained there will be difficulty in finding them employment.

II.—FINANCE.

The revenue for the year, including grant-in-aid of £2,000, amounted to £20,456, being £2,382 over the estimate and, £5,291 in excess of the revenue for the previous year.

The grant-in-aid of £2,000 for 1928 was not credited till 1929, and the annual minimum royalty of £1,000 for both 1928 and 1929 was received during the year from the St. Helena Development Company.

There were also, as compared with the previous year's revenue, increases of £390 under Customs, of £400 under Lands, due to the collection of arrears; and there were decreases of £144 under Royalties, (but arrears of £250 are being collected), of £165 under Fines and Fees, of £550 under Post Office, and of £340 under Miscellaneous. It appears that the demands of philatelists are being reduced to normal proportions and that no further extraordinary revenue can be anticipated from this source.

On the whole the revenue returns show more satisfactory results than at one time during the year was thought probable.

The principal items of revenue were :—

	£
Customs...	5,253
Taxes	579
Fines, Fees, etc.	1,366
Post Office	2,100
Lands	1,400
Agriculture and Forests	307
Investments	434
Ascension	4,657

The expenditure amounted to £22,385, being £3 in excess of the estimate and £2,714 in excess of the previous year's expenditure.

As compared with 1928, the reorganization of the Secretariat, Treasury, Customs, and Law Office resulted in an economy of £225. There is an increase of £580 under Agriculture and Forestry arising from the appointment of an Horticultural Officer and from increased provision for labour and stores. Under Public Works Department there is an increase of £300 occasioned by the appointment of an Assistant Superintendent of Works, and under Public Works Extraordinary there is an increase of £1,693, the Department having got into its full stride with its programme of Extraordinary Works and provision of £250 being included for the expenses in connection with the visit of Mr. Bathgate, late Assistant Director of Works in Nigeria.

The principal items of expenditure were :—

	£
Pensions...	781
Governor	1,144
Secretariat	1,065
Treasury and Customs	750
Police	622
Medical and Sanitary	3,156
Education	810
Post Office	403
Agriculture and Forestry	1,224
Miscellaneous	723
Public Works Department	1,204
Public Works Recurrent	3,065
Public Works Extraordinary	4,103
Ascension	2,165

The revenue (including grant-in-aid) and expenditure for the past five years are :—

	Revenue.	*including Grant-in-Aid of*	*Expenditure.*
	£	£	£
1925	21,731	7,000	19,566
1926	23,945	2,500	23,154
1927	20,486	2,500	16,740
1928	15,549	—	19,671
1929	20,456	4,000	22,385

The ordinary recurrent revenue and expenditure for the same period are approximately as follows :—

	Revenue.	*Expenditure.*
	£	£
1925	12,537	14,758
1926	13,522	15,224
1927	16,600	15,940
1928	14,162	15,794
1929	15,256	17,434

The Colony stands in need, therefore, of a grant-in-aid of approximately £2,000 to balance the ordinary recurrent budget.

Assets and Liabilities :—The statement of assets and liabilities shows an excess of assets over liabilities amounting to £2,666.

Public Debt :—The Colony is free from public debt.

Banking :—The Government Savings Bank is the only banking institution in the island.

The total number of depositors on the 31st December, 1929, was 228 as compared with 234 in 1928. The total deposits amounted to £5,569, an increase of £1,928 over that of 1928.

Stock to the value of £11,698 (cost price) is held by the Government on behalf of the depositors.

The amount due to depositors on 31st December, 1929, was £17,370, as against £16,099 on the same date in 1928.

III.—PRODUCTION.

Agriculture and Industries.

The welfare of St. Helena is bound up with the cultivation of the land. This was the opinion of Sir Daniel Morris in 1884, " I look entirely to the soil," he wrote, " for the elements to bring prosperity to St. Helena." The same opinion was expressed nearly 40 years later in a lecture given in Jamestown by Professor Daly of Havard.

who had visited St. Helena to study its geology. Mr. Mason, who came from South Africa in 1922 to report on the island's agriculture, came to the conclusion that St. Helena "was a country for the smallholder."

The only industry of importance at the present time is the cultivation of *phormium tenax* (New Zealand flax) and the manufacture of fibre and tow from its leaves.

This plant does not appear in Dr. Roxburgh's list of plants seen by him on the island in 1813–1814. His list, however, does not profess to be complete as his bad state of health during his residence prevented him from compiling a full catalogue.

The first reference so far discoverable is in Mellis' *St. Helena*, 1875, "... New Zealand flax with other fibre producing plants all now grow wild, and bear evidence to the very small attention that has been paid by the inhabitants to the soil and its productions, in the fact that none are made use of"; and again, "New Zealand flax grows wild and is common about the highlands. Hitherto the only use made of this plant has been by the market gardeners for tying up bunches of vegetables, etc; and, although the value of the plant for the fibre it yields has long attracted attention, it is only recently that its cultivation has been undertaken with this object in view. During the last year or so a very considerable extent of land has been planted with it."

Flax first appears in the agricultural returns for 1873, when 100 acres were said to be given over to its cultivation. In the following year machinery was set up for the extraction of fibre from aloe and from *phormium tenax*, and from 1875 to 1881 there were exports of fibre from both plants, the highest returns being 100 tons and 83 tons in 1879 and 1880 respectively. Prices then fell, and after 1881 the export ceased.

Sir Daniel Morris in his report of 1883 wrote: "I commend the subject of the extraction of fibre from the New Zealand flax to the careful attention of proprietors in the island ... obtaining some return from the hundreds of tons of the material now growing uselessly on such extensive tracts in the island." He obtained a report on a sample of New Zealand flax treated by a machine erected by Mr. Deason, "this fibre," the report said, "would be fairly saleable in large quantities."

In the Colonial Report for 1889 in referring to the production of fibre it was explained that the difficulties of obtaining an adequate supply of water and of proper machinery had still to be overcome.

It was not till 1904–5 that serious attention was again given to the production of fibre, when proposals in connection with the matter were mooted from South Africa and England. It was pointed out, however, that any extension of the cultivation of New Zealand flax meant the breaking up of grass and pasture land, and that the preservation of such land was necessary for raising stock for the meat supply of the garrison.

The withdrawal of the garrison in 1906–7 altered the whole situation. In June, 1906, a deputation consisting of Messrs. H. B. Morrice, H. J. Bovell, and H. W. Solomon interviewed the Secretary of State for the Colonies and urged the establishment of a Government flax mill in the island. With the assistance of a grant-in-aid, flax planting was encouraged, an expert was obtained from New Zealand, and the Government mill was opened in 1907. In 1913 Solomon and Co. opened their first mill, followed three years later by Deason Brothers, and in 1923 W. A. Thorpe and Sons also began milling operations. In 1925 the St. Helena Corporation acquired a lease of the Government mill.

At the present time, therefore, there are four firms engaged in fibre production, and there are eleven stripping and scutching machines operating. There are about 300 people employed in connection with the mills.

The area under the cultivation of *phormium tenax* is estimated at approximately 2,000 acres. The cultivation is suitable for the smallholders and is taken up by them, but by far the greater proportion of the acreage is the property of the millowners themselves.

The export of fibre and tow during the past five years has been in tons :—

	Fibre.	*Value.* £	*Tow.*	*Value.* £
1925	923	33,022	420	10,953
1926	751	25,531	417	10,851
1927	738	24,542	365	7,963
1928	770	22,515	380	6,933
1929	889	26,759	505	9,191

Mr. Mason in his report (1922) discussed the flax industry. He observed that the war with its enormously inflated prices had given a stimulus to flax planting, that it had been established in suitable and unsuitable places and many of the latter when prices become normal would be likely to go out of cultivation ; that the high prices had led to the planting of ground which under normal conditions would yield much better returns if devoted to the production of ordinary agricultural crops. He was of opinion that, owing to the ease with which money could be made, slackness had crept in all round and that a general tightening up of business methods would be necessary if the industry was not to go through a critical stage. He considered that the greatest cause for uneasiness was the general practice of milling leaves too young, and that no time should be lost by the interested parties in putting their house in order. So far as the mills were concerned it would be necessary to study costs and the most economical way of producing fibre. In most cases, he observed, flax did not receive much attention from the time it was planted until it was ready for cutting. A greater yield he thought would result if it was kept free from weeds, especially in the early stages. He strongly recommended some system of grading.

On this point Sir Henry Galway had been equally emphatic in the Colonial Report for 1908, "When the flax industry develops to any extent, say in three years' time, it will be imperative for the success of the industry that the Colony has its own grader, and so allow for all the produce exported being graded before shipment. If this is not done it is more than likely that the different mills will send home varying qualities of fibre, and so tend to give the St. Helena article a bad name in the London market."

These questions call for much closer co-operation amongst mill-owners than is apparent at the preser time.

For the past few years an attem t as been made by Captain Mainwaring to establish the manufacture of rope and twine out of the local fibre. The export for the last five years has been :—

	Tons.	*Value.*
		£
1925	32	1,500
1926	$35\frac{1}{20}$	2,105
1927	18	810
1928	$26\frac{1}{2}$	1,246
1929	51	2,051

The successful development of such an enterprise would be of the greatest benefit to the island.

Fisheries.—At one time an attempt was made to start a fish-curing industry in the island, but the project failed. It is thought that supplies of fish are not more than sufficient for local needs.

Lace-making.—This industry was started in St. Helena in 1897 by Mrs. Jackson, a resident in the island. She had been impressed with its possibility as an industry for women and girls from the success which had attended a similar enterprise in Madagascar. In 1907 the Imperial Treasury gave a grant to assist and develop the industry, and an Association was formed under the presidency of the Bishop with a committee of ladies to assist in the management. The Association dissolved the following year and the industry passed into Government control. A Government lace school was established and Miss Girdwood was appointed Manageress. She soon came to the opinion that the talent of the St. Helenian was strongly in favour of the needle rather than the pillow. Reports on the work of the school were encouraging and it was considered worth while to adopt old Italian patterns and to aim at production of a high quality. It was stated in 1914 that the laces were of excellent quality and workmanship, were chiefly of Florentine and old Italian designs, and that but for the outbreak of war the school would have shown a substantial profit. In 1916 Miss Girdwood was compelled on account of ill-health to resign her appointment ; the school then closed and has not since been re-opened. Messrs. Solomon and Co.

have opened a depot in town where the lace can now be purchased, but the St. Helena lace finds difficulty in competing with machine-made lace and with work of cheaper quality.

Ascension.

The only export from Ascension at the present time is that of turtles. The number of turtles captured during the year was 134. The average number annually exported during the past five years is 86. In former years the export was on a considerable scale, 750 turtles being exported in 1834, 600 in 1850, and 650 in 1853.

Investigations are being made into the possibilities of exploiting the minerals and the phosphates on the island.

About 1,600 tons of lava rock were shipped to England for experimental treatment.

IV.—TRADE AND ECONOMICS.

The value of the Colony's trade with overseas during 1929 amounted to £85,976 as compared with £80,307 in 1928. The value of imports decreased by £1,635 whilst the value of exports increased by £7,034.

The Customs revenue amounted to £5,253 as against £4,863 in 1928, the increase being principally due to two large consignments of paraffin oil and petrol imported direct from the United States of America, and to a new flax mill opened during the year. This mill, coupled with a larger crop of green leaf being available for milling, increased the export revenue.

Imports.

The value of imports during the year amounted to £47,405 distributed as follows :—

	£
United Kingdom	34,848
South Africa	8,051
Foreign countries	4,506
	£47,405

Importations from South Africa and foreign countries were mainly food, drink, paraffin oil, petrol, and tobacco.

The principal differences as compared with 1928 were :—

Increases—	£
Building Material	553
Foodstuffs (Unenumerated)	191
Grain, seed and oil cake	608
Paraffin Oil	2,705
Petrol	497
Motor Vehicles	552
Tea	125

Decreases—	£
Chemicals, Drugs, etc.	289
Coal and Coke	187
Flour	2,108
Hardware, Metals, etc.	1,093
Leather, Boots, etc.	289
Machinery	549
Rice	302
Stationery	311
Sugar	512

Government imports in 1929 were valued at £2,362 as against £2,713 in 1928. The value of munitions of war is not included.

Exports.

The value of exports in 1929 amounted to £38,571 as against £31,267 in 1928, distributed as follows :—

	£
United Kingdom	36,175
South Africa	2,396

These exports are classified as follows :—

	United Kingdom.	*South Africa.*
	£	£
Raw Material	34,519	1,884
Manufactured Articles, produce and manufacture of the Colony	1,494	512
Re-exports	162	—

The principal differences in value as compared with 1928 are :—

Increases—	£
Fibre	4,244
Tow	2,258
Rope and Twine	760
Metal, old	162

Decreases—	£
Flax Seed	196

The quantities of fibre and tow exported in 1929 were 889 and 505 tons respectively, as compared with 770 and 380 tons in 1928. The 889 tons of fibre is the largest export since 1925.

V.—COMMUNICATIONS.

Shipping.

The number of ships calling at St. Helena and Ascension during the year 1929 was 35. Exactly the same number as called during 1928.

They were classified as follows :—

Mail steamers	26
British warships	2
*Other ships	7

The total tonnage, including the sailing vessel (2,652), was 173,459 as compared with 132,315 during the year 1928.

The Union-Castle Company Line is the only one calling regularly at St. Helena and Ascension, and carries mails outward and homeward once a month.

Roads.

There are 62 miles of road in the island maintained by the Public Works Department, and the expenditure on this service during the year amounted to £1,100.

Motors are now permitted in St. Helena and though the scope for them is limited and the gradients are formidable, they will prove a great benefit from the social as well as from the economic point of view.

Posts, Telegraphs, and Telephones.

Postal communication is monthly between St. Helena and England and between St. Helena and South Africa.

The following statistics show a slight general increase in the business of the Post Office as compared with 1928.

	1928.	1929.
From England—		
No. of Mails (bags)	224	248
Parcels	1,448	1,474
Registered Articles	928	914
Money and Postal Orders ...	£1,578	£1,727
To England—		
No. of bags of Mail	66	61
Parcels	123	135
Registered Articles	1,783	1,771
Money and Postal Orders ...	£6,039	£6,822

* This includes one sailing vessel which called but did not anchor. It was boarded by licensed traders.

	1928.	1929.
From South Africa—		
No. of bags of Mail	66	41*
Parcels	408	519
Registered Articles	449	556
Money and Postal Orders ...	£220	£252
To South Africa—		
No. of bags of Mail	32	21†
Parcels	142	126
Registered Articles	451	454
Money and Postal Orders ...	£1,463	£1,589

The Eastern Telegraph Company have cable stations at St. Helena and Ascension, where messages are accepted for all parts of the world.

There is no internal post or telegraph service. A telephone system is maintained by private subscribers, the rate per instrument being £5 per annum. The number of instruments is 34. There are 43 miles of wire. The revenue during 1929 was £192 2s. 11d. against an expenditure of £242 15s. 5d.

VI.—JUSTICE, POLICE, AND PRISONS.

Subject to all local Ordinances and Orders in force, the law of the Colony is so much of the law of England for the time being as is suitable and appropriate as far as local circumstances permit.

By Royal Order in Council of the 13th February, 1839, the Supreme Court of St. Helena was established. The Governor acts as Chief Justice and is assisted by Assessors, who may be Members of Council or Justices of the Peace. By Ordinance 4 of 1927 the Court is empowered to hold Civil and Criminal Sessions at Ascension.

There were no cases before the Supreme Court during the year under review.

Police Court cases are dealt with by the Police Magistrate or by Justices of the Peace.

The number of cases reported to the Police was 131. In 52 cases action was taken in the Police Court resulting in 20 convictions. Of these convictions eight were for offences against Ordinances relating to the social economy of the island, two for offences against the person, five were for offences against property, and the others were for minor offences. There were four whippings in the case of boys.

The Police force consists in St. Helena of a sergeant and five constables and in Ascension of two constables.

* Exclusive of parcel bags (35) which are included as mails in 1928.
† Exclusive of parcel bags (15) which are included as mails in 1928.

There is a small Debts Court established by Ordinance No. 2 of 1905. Its jurisdiction is over all requests for the recovery of sums not exceeding £25. The Judge of this Court is usually the Police Magistrate. Eleven cases were heard in this Court during the year.

Gaol.

The number of persons committed to prison during the year was five, and two were placed on remand. The number in custody on 31st December, 1929, was 2.

VII.—PUBLIC WORKS.

It has been a very strenuous year for the Public Works Department and the record is one of some very good work.

Reconstruction of Plantation.

The reconstruction of Plantation, the residence of the Governor, a building ruinous and dangerous owing to the depredations of white ants, was a work calculated to test to the utmost the training, the ability, and the organization in the Department, for it had been determined to entrust the work to the local staff.

The building was occupied to the last moment and to the extreme verge of safety. Roof, roof framing, ceilings, floors, and staircases had to be replaced ; in fact, the shell only of the building was in a condition to remain.

It was decided to replace the slates by Robertson's Protected Metal, and the timber framing by steel framing, and to use embossed steel for the ceilings.

The following extract from the Annual Report of the Department shows the progress of the work :—

> "The work on this fine old building commenced in earnest with the full complement of staff on the 6th December, 1928. The balance of the time was occupied in the reconstruction of the Government House stables and coachman's quarters, the repair, renovation, and in many cases, the reconstruction of the Government House furniture, and the fitting up of a suitable residence for His Excellency the Governor.
>
> "On the 6th December, 1928, the staff was divided into two parties, one of which carried out the replacement of all lintels, and the making of doors and window frames.
>
> "The other half commenced the pulling down and reconstruction of the servants' quarters.
>
> "On the 15th July, 1929, the whole of the steel framing with covering and guttering arrived at Plantation.
>
> On the 22nd July the work of erecting the framing on the lawn was commenced. This was carried out by the foreman carpenter and his men, whilst the second carpenter commenced the dangerous task of dismantling the very heavy timber of the old roof.

"In the meantime, as news had been received that the steel framing was on the way out, two men were trained as sawyers and given practice in cutting up wood for scaffolding.

"On the 30th July the roof was successfully coupled up in accordance with plans supplied from the Crown Agents. The second carpenter had also completed the dismantling of the timbers leaving the portion over the west wing as covering to the new timber stored below the top flooring. In dismantling the roof the whole of the slates, old lead flats and valleys and a very fair amount of timber have been salvaged.

"The foreman carpenter then took over operations under the Superintendent of Works and the second carpenter carried on the completion of window and door frames.

"On the 1st August, 1929, the first steel principal truss was successfully erected. This work was continued until the whole framing was erected and covered. This work was carried out in the remarkable short time of two months."

By the end of the year the new roof with its steel framing and the embossed steel ceilings in the upper storey were in position, and most of the floors in that storey had been replaced. In addition the renewal of all the lintels had been carried out and new door and window-frames had been made.

The work thus carried out is well within the estimate of cost and of time, and is a very creditable achievement on the part of the Public Works staff, justifying the confidence reposed in them. It may be observed that, excluding out-houses, Plantation contains thirty-six rooms and offices, and that in 1895 when it became necessary to renew the slated portion of the roof 5,000 slates were required.

Plantation derives its name from the fact that it is on land which in early days was cultivated as a plantation for supplying the Governor's table and for growing yams to feed the slaves. The present building was started in 1791. During the Governorship of Colonel Wilks, the immediate predecessor of Sir Hudson Lowe, the sum of £4,500 is said to have been spent on repairs and additions to the property, and 27,000 pineasters were planted out in the grounds. The house now stands in very pleasant wooded surroundings, chiefly of oak and pine, and is a most attractive residence.

Roads.

The end of 1928 saw the arrival of a motor-roller and a stone-crusher.

The roller was a 2½ ton "A" type, made by Messrs. Barford and Perkins. It was fitted with a spindle to carry a driving wheel for operating the crusher. It has been found economical as regards fuel consumption, and owing to the absence of exceptional noise when working it soon became a matter of unconcern to most of the island horses. The crusher is an Acme Stonebreaker weighing 2½ tons, supplied by Messrs. Goodwin and Barsby.

Both roller and crusher have amply fulfilled expectations. The quantity of stone crushed was 8,620 barrels at a cost of approximately £100. By the primitive methods of stone-breaking hitherto

in force the cost of breaking this quantity of stone would have been £270. The first essay with the roller was the intensive treatment of about one mile of the Longwood road. The result showed that, the question of funds apart, there should be no difficulty in giving the roads of the island a first-class surface.

When funds are available it is proposed to obtain a tractor which will also drive the crusher, thus leaving the roller its whole time for working on the roads. The fear that this machinery would lead to unemployment has been falsified, for there is need of additional labour for quarrying the large quantities of stone required to feed the crusher.

The various sections of the sixty miles of road in the island have received attention, and work has been done in repairing and erecting retaining and protection walls.

At the end of the year regulations with regard to motor traffic were promulgated and the first motor-car, an Austin Seven saloon imported by the Honourable H. W. Solomon, O.B.E., made its appearance. It was followed shortly after by a commercial vehicle, a 30 cwt. Chevrolet lorry, imported by the St. Helena Corporation. It is anticipated that within a short time there will be about twelve cars and half a dozen lorries running in the island.

Water Supplies.

The main water supplies throughout the island were overhauled during the year. Storage tanks have been cleaned, and covers and defective woodwork repaired or replaced.

The Jamestown service lines were thoroughly inspected and found in a satisfactory condition, and all the flushing systems were found in good order.

Two new tanks to hold 16,000 gallons each were erected during the year. The first was erected on the Castle Terrace for the shipping supply. The second was placed at the upper end of Jamestown and will increase the supply for the various needs of the town.

Transport.

This section of the Public Works Department had an exceptionally heavy programme. In addition to the needs of the Horticultural Department the crusher was making continuous requisition on transport. The carts failed under the strain, but the mules kept in good condition and stood well up to the work. The donkeys took time to recover from the effects of the drought of the previous year, but after careful nursing were able to do their full share. Two motor-lorries would greatly ease the situation.

General.

Current repairs were carried out on various Government buildings, eighteen in all receiving attention, and the wharf cranes were scraped and repainted. The expenditure on Current Repairs and Minor Works amounted to £410.

Various works were undertaken on repayment for the Admiralty, at a cost of £1,300.

Woodworking machinery, a Ransome Newark Joinery Machine, type 365, fitted with a sawing and planing table arrived in the latter part of the year, and was installed at Plantation where it is first needed. It has been of great assistance to the staff who very quickly appreciated its value as labour-saving machinery.

It was possible to arrange early in the year for a visit to the Colony of Mr. Bathgate, late Assistant Director of Public Works in Nigeria. He reported on the various programmes of Public Works and on the activities and needs of the Department generally. The advice of such an experienced engineer and the series of valuable reports he submitted have been of the greatest assistance to the Government.

VIII.—AGRICULTURE AND HORTICULTURE.

During the year attention was devoted mainly to the Public Gardens and Maldivia Gardens in Jamestown and to Plantation. Funds were not available for serious work on "Scotland," an estate of about ten acres purchased at the end of 1928 for a Horticultural Station.

The work in connection with the Public Gardens was highly successful, and was an object lesson as to the possibilities of horticulture in the island. With an improved water supply, for the annual rainfall in Jamestown rarely exceeds six inches, it is hoped to obtain still better results. As it is the efforts of the Horticultural Officer have converted a waste and derelict open space into a pleasant and attractive garden.

Maldivia Gardens are situated at the upper end of the town. Fruit and vegetables were supplied from them to the public, and the proceeds were credited to "The Maldivia Fund," out of which the gardens were maintained. These proceeds are now credited to general revenue, and the gardens are supported out of the departmental vote. Experiments with certain vegetables met with success, but owing to the heat and the drought poor results were obtained with cauliflowers and also with strawberries. The gardens possess some fine specimens of mango trees, but owing to fly the yield of fruit was disappointing. Lack of funds prevented any systematic spraying.

At Plantation experiments with sugar-beet, swedes, mangel-wurzels, and turnips were satisfactory, and improvement was manifest in the forage crops generally. Government transport animals depend on Plantation for most of their forage. The small coffee plot was thinned out and cleaned and the ground loosened and given a dressing of guano. The trees were not in a healthy condition and were much overgrown.

The export of fibrous products for the year totalled 1,394 tons, being 889 tons of fibre and 505 tons of tow. This is the highest export yet recorded. The increase is due to new areas being ready for cutting. Doubts are expressed as to whether areas which have been cut two or three times will continue to maintain their yield. The general consensus of opinion is that the yield diminishes with each cutting, and this is certainly the case with the Government flax areas. The subject is one which is under investigation.

An Herbarium has been started and some 500 specimens have been collected.

During the year, owing to the enterprise of the Honourable H. J. Bovell, bees have again been introduced into the island. The yield of honey was not satisfactory, but the experiment has been a valuable one, and will be of great assistance in connection with the hives Government are hoping to introduce.

The year's expenditure of the Department amounted to £1,244. The revenue from "Maldivia" amounted to £41 as against £35 in 1928, and from the sale of timber to £56 as against £27 in that year. The sale of flax realized £257. In addition, there were 72 tons of forage supplied to Government animals, and fuel, vegetables, and fruit were supplied for the use of Government House.

IX.—PUBLIC HEALTH.

The estimated civil population of St. Helena on the 31st of December, 1929, was 3,846, an increase of 51 since the same date in the previous year. In the past five years the population shows an estimated increase of 145.

The deaths in St. Helena during the year numbered 40, as against 69 in 1928, the death-rate being 10.4 compared with 18.17 in the previous year. For the past ten years the death-rate has an annual average of 11.86 per 1,000.

The deaths according to age were :—

Under 1 year	8
Between 1—10 years	4
,, 10—30 ,, ...	4
,, 30—60 ,, ...	11
,, 60—80 ,, ...	10
Over 80	3

There were 121 births as against 123 in 1928, a birth-rate of 31.46 as against 32.39.

There were 34 marriages as compared with 31 in 1928.

In Ascension with its population of 220 there were no deaths or births.

Health.

During the year there were a few cases of chicken-pox, and two cases of typhoid, the origin of which was not traced.

A medical examination of school children was carried out during the year, the total number examined being 713. Cleanliness was reported to be above the average for European children. Adenoids were practically non-existent, and defective vision was present in very few cases. Since the appointment of the Government Dentist a great improvement in the state of the children's teeth was noticeable. As regards height and weight, taking English children as normal, it was found that the height of town children was above normal and that of country children below. The weight of both town and country children was below normal, and as between town and country children the advantage was with the country children.

The Dentist visited all the schools. The number of children treated was 362. The number of teeth extracted or refilled was 1,048. The examination and treatment of children is not compulsory.

The Dentist sums up his report as follows : " The work has been in operation long enough for definite good results to be obvious, and the various people concerned, noticeably parents, are more cordial and willing to do their share towards making it a success."

X.—EDUCATION.

There are eight primary schools in the island. Three are Government schools, three are maintained by the Hussey Charity, established in 1865 originally for the redemption of slaves, one by the Benevolent Society founded in 1814 for educational purposes and acts of benevolence, and one by the Bishop's Diocesan Fund. These schools provide for about 700 children.

A Government grant of £100 is given to the Hussey Charity Schools, of £20 to the Benevolent School, and of £15 to the Diocesan Fund School.

A carpentry class has been established in connection with the Government Boys' School and the Hussey Charity Schools. The training is quite elementary, but in the opinion of the Superintendent of Education the class " has more than justified itself as a very necessary part of our education system."

At the end of the year a Committee of ladies examined the needlework of the girls in the Government Schools and spoke very highly of the work being done.

There is, however, no provision for technical or secondary education. As regards the former, the comparatively extensive programme of public works and the establishment of a horticultural department will afford some opportunities for training boys. In the case of girls it is proposed when funds are available to start a school of domestic economy under a trained teacher.

Pupil teachers from all the schools attend weekly classes in more or less secondary subjects covering a course of four years. The instruction includes English, elementary French, Algebra, Arithmetic, Geography, History, and Hygiene. These classes are conducted by the Rev. L. C. Walcott, Vicar of the Parish Church, who also acts as Superintendent of Education.

The expenditure on education during the year amounted to £806.

XI.—LANDS.

Sir Daniel Morris estimated the area of St. Helena to be 28,000 acres, " Of this area probably 20,000 acres or more than two-thirds are composed of barren rocky wastes or clayey slopes totally unfit in their present condition for any agricultural operations." More recent estimates give the area of agricultural and pastural lands as 10,000 acres.

The multiplicity of records and the diversity of titles introduce some degree of confusion into the tenure of land in the island.

Among the terms in the early days of the East India Company under which land was granted to " the planters, their heirs, and assignees for ever " was the condition " An Englishman to be kept on every ten acres, and to take his turn to appear in arms on guard." Appearance on guard, watch and ward, as it was termed, was commuted as early as 1683 for a payment of 2*s.* an acre, subsequently reduced to 1*s.* an acre. As regards the maintenance of an Englishman on every ten acres, the Court of Directors sent instructions in 1717 " not to enforce too rigorously " this condition.

The lands which bore this charge of 1*s.* an acre became known as " free " lands.

The Company also granted leases. In 1828 the Court conveyed to the Governor their approval of the conversion of leaseholds into permanent tenure, " We are . . . prepared to sanction the grant to such of the parties now holding temporary leases as may by their management of the property and the buildings they have erected have proved themselves worthy of the boon of a permanent title to the lands, with a reservation, however, of our right in each case, when the public service may demand it, to resume possession of the land upon the payment of its valuation, to be assessed by a jury, providing also that a quit rent varying from 3*s.* per acre to 6*d.* per acre to be in like manner assessed."

These lands became known locally as " permanent tenure " land.

Lastly, under a Proclamation dated the 7th of August, 1843, the Government gave notice that it would commute the ground rents of the several tenures into rent-free grants at 10 or 12½ years rental according to the nature of the tenure. A considerable number of grantees took advantage of this offer. It does not appear that the right of Government to resume for public purposes was made a condition in this scheme of commutation.

There is still a considerable area of Government land on lease, and during recent years a number of small plots have been granted to smallholders, originally for growing flax.

The number of properties on the Government rent roll amounts to 427, representing about £1,200 per annum in rents.

It is difficult to arrive at the market value of land owing to the paucity of transactions, but from £7 10*s.* to £10 an acre would not be an unreasonable price for cultivated land.

The only legislation dealing with land is Ordinance No. 1 of 1893, to simplify conveyancing and titles to land and to provide for registration.

XII.—LABOUR CONDITIONS AND COST OF LIVING.

Wages for skilled and semi-skilled workmen vary from 3/6 to 5/6 per day and for unskilled labour from 2/- to 2/6 per day of eight to ten hours. Women are paid less.

The Government minimum wage is 2/6 per day, amounting to 15/- a week of forty-five hours, the half day on Saturday counting as a full day.

In domestic service the monthly wage for housemaids varies from 10/- to £2, for cooks from 30/- to £4 5s., and for male servants from 30/- to £4 15s.

There is no Government insurance against sickness, unemployment, or old age.

In the case of sickness the St. Helenians themselves to a great extent have been accustomed to provide for sick pay and also for burial expenses by insurance in one or more of the Friendly Societies, which have been for many years a feature of the social economy of the island.

The law governing these Societies is Ordinance No. 31 of 1839. It provides for the formation of Societies "for the mutual relief and maintenance of all and every the members thereof their wives, children, relations, and nominees, in sickness, infancy, advanced age, widowhood, or any other natural state or contingency, whereof the occurrence is susceptible of calculation by way of average, or for any other purpose which is not illegal." It provides also for the making of "proper and wholesome rules," for the rendering of accounts, and for the hearing of complaints before two Justices of the Peace. It is provided further that the Acts of Parliament of 10th George IV. chap. 56 and the 4th and 5th William IV chap. 40, as far as the same are applicable and not repugnant to the Colony's Ordinance shall be in force in the Colony. This Ordinance has stood for nearly a century without the demand or, apparently, the need for revision, except that by the Children Life Insurance Ordinance of 1921 insurance on the life of children under five years of age is prohibited.

There are four Friendly Societies for men with a recorded membership of 1,628, but as already stated several persons are members of more than one Society. The male population of the island over fourteen years of age may be estimated at approximately 1,150.

The oldest of the Societies is the Mechanics' Society founded in 1839. The membership is 393 and the amount of the invested funds is £666. The weekly subscription is 6d., and the sick relief granted is 1/6 per day, decreasing after six months. The burial allowance is £4 or £8 for a member and £3 or £6 for his wife, the higher rate being payable after twelve months' membership.

The St. Helena Poor Society was founded in 1847. It has a membership of 498, and its invested funds amount to £4,400. The monthly subscription is 6d. and it is provided that while the capital remains at £4,000 and upwards the sum of £170 may be expended in sick relief, but no member shall receive more than 5/– per month. The grant for burial expenses varies from £8 to £14 according to length of membership.

The Foresters were established in 1871. The membership is 390 and the invested funds amount to £1,405. The subscription is 3/– to 4/– a month. The sick benefit is 2/– per day decreasing according to the duration of the illness. The allowance for funeral expenses is £14 for a member and £7 for his wife.

The St. Helena Working Men's Christian Association was founded in 1875. Its membership is 347 and its invested funds amount to £350. The subscription is 6d. per week. The rate of sick relief is 1/6 per day decreasing after six months. The burial allowance is £8 for a member and £4 for his wife or widow.

The Societies provide also for medical attendance and medicines. There is an entrance fee payable according to age.

For women there is the Church Provident Society established in 1878. The number of members is 285 and the funds amount to £471. There is no fixed allowance for sick relief, but while the capital remains at £300 grants of varying amounts are made.

The burial allowance is £4 and £3 for members of over or under twelve months standing. Provision is made for medical attendance and medicines.

Unemployment more or less severe has to be reckoned with from time to time, but during the year under review it did not attain serious proportions. Whether sound or not economically and socially, the principle that it is better to employ two men at 2/– a day each than one man at 4/– a day does tend to keep unemployment down. The aim of Government as and when funds permit is to establish new opportunities for employment in the island and to train St. Helenians for employment outside.

As regards old age pensions it has been calculated that the sum of approximately £1,500 a year would suffice to provide all persons of over 70 with a pension of five shillings a week.

There is a Poor Relief Board, established under the Poor Relief Ordinance, 1914. Its members are elected annually by the rate-payers, and they shall be a Board " for the care and management of the concerns of the poor." " They shall examine into the state and condition of the poor and shall enquire into and determine the proper objects of relief, and the nature and amount of the relief to be given, and shall enquire into and superintend the collection and administration of all monies to be raised and applied by the Parish to the relief of the poor." The annual revenue of the Board is about £900 to £1,000, derived from a 5d. rate, and a Government contribution of £82.

Cost of Living.

The cost of living is moderate. Good meat, including fowls, is obtainable at 1/- per lb., fish is cheap and good, eggs vary according to season from 1/6 to 2/- per dozen, fresh butter is 2/6 per lb., fresh milk and fresh vegetables are usually obtainable at reasonable prices, rice, which with fish forms the staple diet of the St. Helenian, is 3d. per lb.

There are no duties on imported foodstuffs. On wines the duty is 4/- per gallon, and on spirits under proof 12/6 per gallon. The duty on cigarettes is 3/- per lb. and on pipe tobacco 2/- per lb.; on unmanufactured tobacco it is 6d. per lb.

There is a five per cent. *ad valorem* duty on certain articles regarded as luxuries, which brings in about £120 a year to the revenue.

XIII.—MISCELLANEOUS.

Meteorology.

At Hutt's Gate, 1,900 feet, where the principal observations are taken, the rainfall for the year was 30 inches. The heaviest fall was .92 on the 16th May. At Plantation at the other end of the island the rainfall was 28.09 and the heaviest fall was .78 on the same date. The number of raindays at Hutt's Gate was 230 and at Plantation 190. The rainfall decreases as sea-level is approached till at Jamestown it is usually below ten inches.

Upper air observations by means of pilot balloons were taken during the year at Longwood on behalf of the Air Ministry. Their object was to determine the nature of the winds overlaying the Trades. The longest run for the year was in June, when the balloon reached a height of approximately 26,500 feet, remaining under observation for 53 minutes, proving, at this height, that the winds do not follow the normal course of the Trades but, inversely, they oppose them, which was observed in every case of an ascent of more than 20,000 feet where the direction of the wind is generally from the north-west instead of the usual south-east at sea-level.

There appears to be a strong " eddy " or air pocket in the 2,500 feet layer which was consistently observed in balloon ascents.

There were no electrical disturbances, visible to the naked eye, during the year.

At Ascension the rainfall for the year on Green Mountain, about 1,900 feet, was 41.91 and at Georgetown, sea-level, 3.14 inches.

Legislation.

Six Ordinances, five Orders in Council, and one Proclamation were issued in the course of the year. Of general interest were the Regulations to govern motor traffic, passed under the Motor Car Ordinance, 1928.

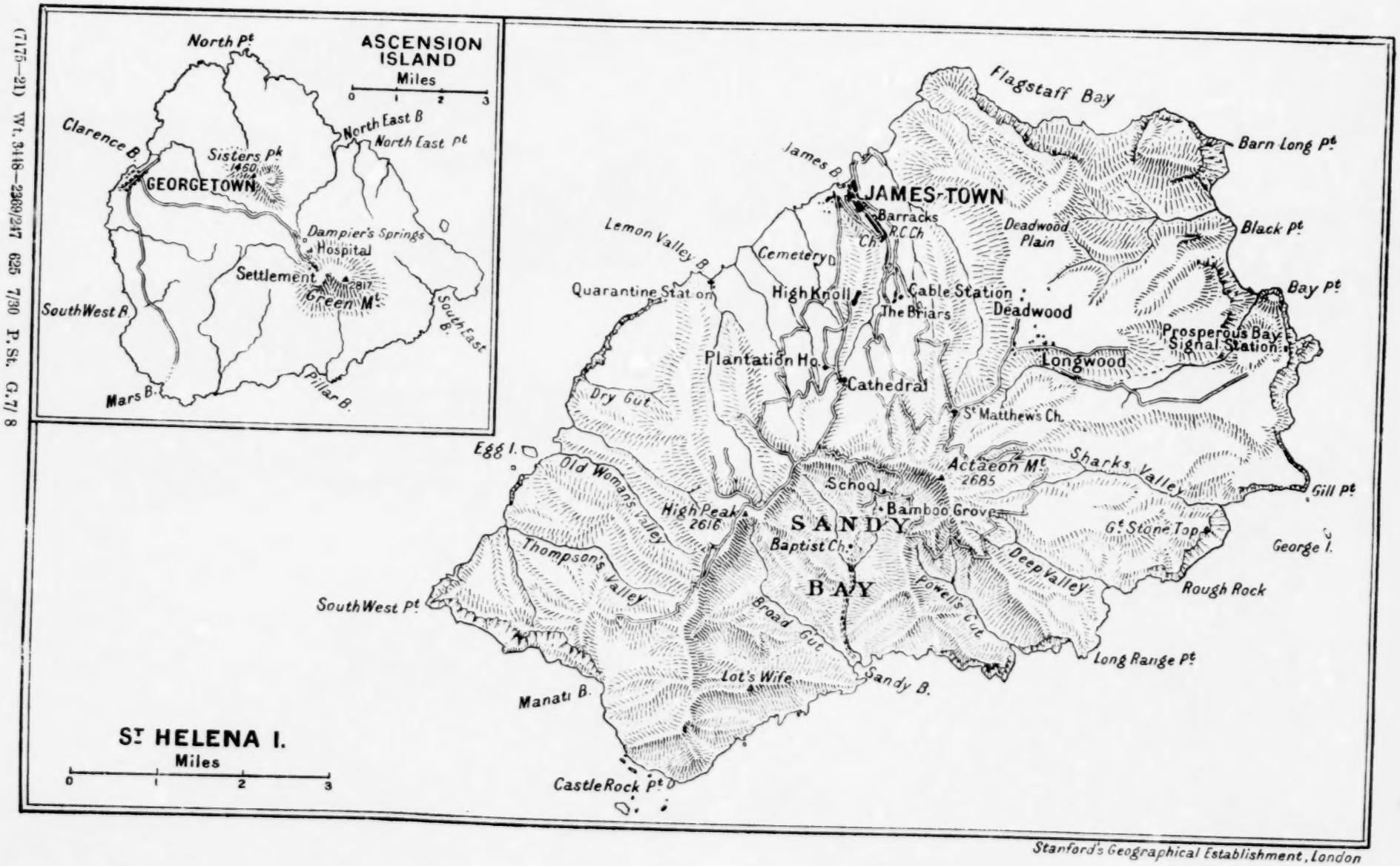
Staff.

Lieutenant-Colonel E. Lucas Salier, M.C., Controller of Labour at Ascension, was appointed Government Secretary.

Dr. Burton succeeded Dr. Carleton as Colonial Surgeon and Dr. Cramer succeeded Dr. Cassidy as Assistant Colonial Surgeon.

Miss Sutton was appointed Nursing Sister vice Miss Guidera, whose term of engagement had expired.

Mr. F. R. Thorpe was appointed Coroner.



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REPORT FOR 1930

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SITUATION AND AREA.

The Colony of St. Helena consists of the Island of St. Helena with the Island of Ascension as a Dependency.

St. Helena.

St. Helena lies in latitude 15°55′ South and longitude 5°42′ West. It is about 950 miles due south of the Equator, 4,000 miles from England, and 1,700 miles from Cape Town. The voyage from England occupies from 14 to 17 days, and from Cape Town from five to six days.

The area of the island is 47 square miles. The population is about 3,800, of whom about 1,500 live in Jamestown, the port and only town in the island.

St. Helena is of volcanic origin. The latest account of its geology is a report by Professor Daly of Harvard University, who visited the island at the end of 1921. This report appears in the *Proceedings of the American Academy of Arts and Sciences* Vol. 62 No. 2, March, 1927. Professor Daly is of the opinion that St. Helena dates from pre-Glacial time, and is probably pre-Pliocene.

The aspect of St. Helena from the sea is forbidding. It rises abruptly in bare cliffs, which vary in height from 400 to 2,000 ft. The face of this wall of rock is cut by deep narrow gorges.

Above the cliffs the ground rises in a fairly regular slope, but with numerous valleys, to a ridge lying across the middle of the island. This ridge is serrated in form ; its general altitude is about 2,000 feet, but two of its peaks, easily accessible and affording magnificent views, rise to 2,700 feet.

The island has been divided into three zones, " Coast," " Middle," and " Central."

The " Coast " zone extends from about a mile to a mile and a-half round the island. Except in some of the valleys, where fruit and vegetables may be grown, the only vegetation is prickly pear.

The " Middle " zone, at an altitude of 400 to 1,800 feet, succeeds the " Coast " zone. The hills and valleys and pleasing scenery in the higher levels of this area are suggestive of parts of Wales and Devon. Oaks, Scotch pines, gorse, and blackberries flourish there, and in 1926 at Plantation during a prolonged winter some primroses made their appearance.

The " Central " zone, about three miles long by two miles wide, is ground each side of the central ridge, the highest ground in the island. In some parts the ground is precipitous, in others undulating with grassy slopes.

Ascension.

Ascension Island lies in latitude 7°53′ South and longitude 14°18′ West, about 700 miles north-west of St. Helena. It has an area of 34 square miles. The population consists of European and St. Helenian employees of the Eastern Cable Company and of the St. Helena Development Company. On the 31st of December, 1929, the population numbered 220, of whom 145 were St. Helenians.

The island is of volcanic origin, and, as in the case of St. Helena, the most recent account of its geology is a report by Professor Daly which appeared in the *Proceedings of the American Academy of Arts and Sciences,* Vol. 60, No. 1, June, 1925. Professor Daly observes that from the time of its discovery no sign of volcanic activity, not even a hot spring, has been reported though geologically the island is extremely young. He thinks it possible that the whole mass above sea-level has been erupted during post-Glacial time.

From the sea Ascension appears bleak and desolate. Green Mountain, however, 2,800 feet high, relieves with its vegetation the barren and depressing effect of the larger part of the island and affords pasture for about 600 sheep and cattle.

HISTORY.

A note on the history of St. Helena and Ascension will be found in the Report for 1929—Colonial Reports, No. 1475.

PEOPLE AND LANGUAGE.

With the exception of the English residents and the descendants of English families, settled in the island, the inhabitants are of varied descent. Their ancestors generations ago came from different parts of the world, but principally from Europe and Asia, and there is difficulty now in tracing any distinctive or prevailing racial element. They are of slight build and of pleasing appearance, they are very law-abiding and are generally praised for their civility and courtesy. In their ideas and sentiments they are essentially and intensely English—as English as is a great deal of the island scenery.

The language spoken in St. Helena has always been English, and to-day it is remarkable for its purity.

CURRENCY.

By the St. Helena Coinage Order, 1925, all coins which under the Coinage Acts of 1870 and 1891 are legal tender in the United Kingdom, and all silver coins which under the Coinage Act, 1922, are legal tender in the Union of South Africa are legal tender in the island of St. Helena.

WEIGHTS AND MEASURES.

By the Weights and Measures Ordinance, 1905, the weights and measures for the time being lawfully in use in the United Kingdom and no others are to be used in St. Helena.

CLIMATE.

A note on the climate of St. Helena will be found in the Report for 1929—Colonial Reports, No. 1475.

I.—GENERAL.

In the past St. Helena was famous for its fruit, its coffee, and its vegetables. In the days of the East India Company the apples, mulberries, quinces, were said "to have come to perfection." Some St. Helena coffee shipped to England in 1845 fetched 1d. per lb. more than any other description, and a sample sent to the London Exhibition in 1851 obtained the first prize for quality.

In more recent years consignments of potatoes were shipped to the Cape and a report on them in 1906 stated "there is no doubt the quality is excellent and they will command the best figure in the market." It was the opinion, moreover, of Sir Daniel Morris in 1884 that by that date if Mr. Chalmers, who had been sent from Kew in 1869, had not soon after been retrenched, the cultivation of tobacco would have become an established industry.

The departure of Mr. Chalmers left the St. Helenians, in horticultural matters, pathetically helpless, and horticulture became derelict.

The appointment in 1928 of an officer from Kew has raised some hope of revival of interest in horticulture and of increasing the number and establishing the position of smallholders. The limited area of land, however, available for cultivation makes it unlikely that any export trade on a considerable scale is possible. The market for the local produce will be in the island itself, in Ascension, and in occasional supplies to ships.

It may be possible in the near future to arrange for a short visit to the Colony of a Forestry Officer. No systematic forestry has ever been attempted in St. Helena and no report has yet been made by a Forestry Officer. Apart from their influence on climate and soil, trees are needed in St. Helena for fuel and to provide timber for building, fencing, etc., and there is little doubt that a reafforestation scheme launched under expert advice can provide St. Helena with all the timber, including ant-resistant varieties, it will ordinarily require.

The possibility of obtaining a teacher in Domestic Science will be considered when funds become available. St. Helena girls when trained make good cooks and domestic servants. Opportunities for their employment offer in Ascension, in South Africa, and occasionally in England. There is little fear that if well trained there will be difficulty in finding them employment.

II.—FINANCE.

The revenue for the year, including grant-in-aid of £6,000, amounted to £18,590, being £1,618 under the estimate and £1,866 under the revenue for the previous year.

The ordinary revenue showed a deficit of £2,628 as compared with the estimate. Under the head of Customs there was a shortfall of £1,302, occasioned by trade depression, most of the flax mills being closed for some months. There was a heavy deficit also of approximately £1,220 under Sale of Stamps.

The principal items of revenue were :—	£
Customs...	3,847
Taxes and Licences	724
Fines, Fees, etc.	1,480
Post Office	943
Lands	1,057
Agriculture and Forests	140
Investments	433
Ascension	2,763
Sale of Land	1,010

The expenditure, including the sum of £1,857 chargeable against the Colonial Development Fund, amounted to £25,819. Excluding Development Fund charges the expenditure exceeded the estimate by £3,377.

The chief excess was £1,200 under Extraordinary, Repairs to Government Buildings. The work had progressed so satisfactorily that the programme became accelerated and funds were anticipated which would have been available in 1931. Certain expenditure which had been charged up to Extraordinary Works was subject to adjustment by being brought under Ordinary Expenditure. This accounts mainly for the increase of £200 under Forestry, and of £500 under Public Works Recurrent. Under this latter vote is included an excess of £300 for Admiralty Works, which is repayable. Under Extraordinary, for which provision had not been made in the Estimates, the sum of £300 was spent on a new water supply for St. Paul's District, and adjustments amounting to £500 were made in connexion with the expenditure for the Governor's accommodation during the re-building of Plantation. A sum of £400 was included for the purchase of Scotland estate, expenditure which had not been brought to account in 1929.

The principal items of expenditure were :—	£
Pensions...	905
Governor	1,101
Secretariat	1,160
Treasury and Customs	716
Police	653
Medical and Sanitary	2,828
Education	830
Post Office	414
Agriculture and Forestry	1,340
Miscellaneous	981
Public Works Department	1,167
Public Works Recurrent	3,151
Public Works Extraordinary	6,039
Ascension	2,001
Colonial Development Fund : Reconstruction of Roads	1,857

The revenue (including grant-in-aid) and expenditure for the past five years are :—

	Revenue.	*Expenditure, including Grant-in-Aid of*	*Expenditure.*
	£	£	£
1926	23,945	2,500	23,154
1927	20,486	2,500	16,740
1928	15,549	—	19,671
1929	20,456	4,000	22,385
1930	18,570	6,000	25,819

The ordinary recurrent revenue and expenditure for the same period are approximately as follows :—

	Revenue.	*Expenditure.*
	£	£
1926	13,522	15,224
1927	16,600	15,940
1928	14,162	15,794
1929	15,256	17,434
1930	12,510	17,962

Assets and Liabilities :—The statement of assets and liabilities shows a deficit of approximately £5,000 on 31st December, 1930.

Public Debt :—The Colony is free from public debt.

Banking :—The Government Savings Bank is the only banking institution in the island.

The total number of depositors on the 31st December, 1930, was 238 as compared with 228 in 1929. The total deposits amounted to £3,430, a decrease of £2,139 over that of 1929.

Stock to the value of £11,698 (cost price) is held by the Government on behalf of the depositors.

The amount due to depositors on 31st December, 1930, was £17,135, as against £17,370 on the same date in 1929.

III.—PRODUCTION.

Fibre Industry.

The welfare of St. Helena is bound up with the cultivation of the land. This was the opinion of Sir Daniel Morris in 1884, " I look entirely to the soil," he wrote, " for the elements to bring prosperity to St. Helena." The same opinion was expressed nearly 40 years later in a lecture given in Jamestown by Professor Daly of Harvard, who had visited St. Helena to study its geology. Mr. Mason, who

came from South Africa in 1922 to report on the island's agriculture, came to the conclusion that St. Helena " was a country for the smallholder."

The only industry of importance at the present time is the cultivation of *phormium tenax* (New Zealand flax) and the manufacture of fibre and tow from its leaves.

This plant does not appear in Dr. Roxburgh's list of plants seen by him on the island in 1813–1814. His list, however, does not profess to be complete as his bad state of health during his residence prevented him from compiling a full catalogue.

The first reference so far discoverable is in Mellis' *St. Helena*, 1875, " . . . New Zealand flax with other fibre-producing plants all now grow wild, and bear evidence to the very small attention that has been paid by the inhabitants to the soil and its productions, in the fact that none are made use of " ; and again, " New Zealand flax grows wild and is common about the highlands. Hitherto the only use made of this plant has been by the market gardeners for tying up bunches of vegetables, etc ; and, although the value of the plant for the fibre it yields has long attracted attention, it is only recently that its cultivation has been undertaken with this object in view. During the last year or so a very considerable extent of land has been planted with it."

Flax first appears in the agricultural returns for 1873, when 100 acres were said to be given over to its cultivation. In the following year machinery was set up for the extraction of fibre from aloe and from *phormium tenax*, and from 1875 to 1881 there were exports of fibre from both plants, the highest returns being 100 tons and 83 tons in 1879 and 1880 respectively. Prices then fell, and after 1881 the export ceased.

Sir Daniel Morris in his report of 1883 wrote : " I commend the subject of the extraction of fibre from the New Zealand flax to the careful attention of proprietors in the island . . . obtaining some return from the hundreds of tons of the material now growing uselessly on such extensive tracts in the island." He obtained a report on a sample of New Zealand flax treated by a machine erected by Mr. Deason, " this fibre," the report said, " would be fairly saleable in large quantities."

In the Colonial Report for 1889 in referring to the production of fibre it was explained that the difficulties of obtaining an adequate supply of water and of proper machinery had still to be overcome.

It was not till 1904–5 that serious attention was again given to the production of fibre, when proposals in connection with the matter were mooted from South Africa and England. It was pointed out, however, that any extension of the cultivation of New Zealand flax meant the breaking up of grass and pasture land, and that the preservation of such land was necessary for raising stock for the meat supply of the garrison.

The withdrawal of the garrison in 1906–7 altered the whole situation. In June, 1906, a deputation consisting of Messrs. H. B. Morrice, H. J. Bovell, and H. W. Solomon interviewed the Secretary of State for the Colonies and urged the establishment of a Government flax mill in the island. With the assistance of a grant-in-aid, flax planting was encouraged, an expert was obtained from New Zealand, and the Government mill was opened in 1907. In 1913 Solomon and Co. opened their first mill, followed three years later by Deason Brothers, and in 1923 W. A. Thorpe and Sons also began milling operations. In 1925 the St. Helena Corporation acquired a lease of the Government mill.

At the present time, therefore, there are four firms engaged in fibre production, and there are eleven stripping and scutching machines operating. There are about 300 people employed in connection with the mills.

The area under the cultivation of *phormium tenax* is estimated at approximately 2,000 acres. The cultivation is suitable for the smallholders and is taken up by them, but by far the greater proportion of the acreage is the property of the millowners themselves.

The export of fibre and tow during the past five years has been, in tons :—

	Fibre.	*Value.*	*Tow.*	*Value.*
		£		£
1926	751	25,531	417	10,851
1927	738	24,542	365	7,963
1928	770	22,515	380	6,933
1929	889	26,759	505	9,191
1930	540	11,890	342	4,915

Mr. Mason in his report (1922) discussed the flax industry. He observed that the war with its enormously inflated prices had given a stimulus to flax planting, that it had been established in suitable and unsuitable places and many of the latter when prices become normal would be likely to go out of cultivation ; that the high prices had led to the planting of ground which under normal conditions would yield much better returns if devoted to the production of ordinary agricultural crops. He was of opinion that, owing to the ease with which money could be made, slackness had crept in all round and that a general tightening up of business methods would be necessary if the industry was not to go through a critical stage. He considered that the greatest cause for uneasiness was the general practice of milling leaves too young, and that no time should be lost by the interested parties in putting their house in order. So far as the mills were concerned it would be necessary to study costs and the most economical way of producing fibre. In most cases, he observed, flax did not receive much attention from the time it was planted until it was ready for cutting. A greater yield he

thought would result if it was kept free from weeds, especially in the early stages. He strongly recommended some system of grading. On this point Sir Henry Galway had been equally emphatic in the Colonial Report for 1908, " When the flax industry develops to any extent, say in three years' time, it will be imperative for the success of the industry that the Colony has its own grader, and so allow for all the produce exported being graded before shipment. If this is not done it is more than likely that the different mills will send home varying qualities of fibre, and so tend to give the St. Helena article a bad name in the London market."

These questions call for much closer co-operation amongst mill-owners than is apparent at the present time.

For the past few years an attempt has been made to establish the manufacture of rope and twine out of the local fibre. The export for the last five years has been :—

	Tons.	*Value.*
		£
1926	35$\frac{1}{20}$	2,105
1927	18	810
1928	26$\frac{1}{2}$	1,246
1929	51	2,051
1930	52	2,243

The successful development of such an enterprise would be of the greatest benefit to the island.

Ascension.

The only export from Ascension at the present time is that of turtles. The number of turtles captured during the year was 106. The average number annually exported during the past five years is 93. In former years the export was on a considerable scale, 750 turtles being exported in 1834, 600 in 1850, and 650 in 1853.

Investigations are being made into the possibilities of exploiting the minerals and the phosphates on the island.

IV.—TRADE AND ECONOMICS.

The value of the Colony's trade with overseas during 1930 amounted to £64,256 as compared with £85,976 in 1929. The value of imports decreased by £2,994 and the value of exports decreased by £18,726.

The Colony's trade was affected during the year by grave depression, the export of fibre and tow being suspended for some months. The previous year benefited by the importation of two large consignments of oil and petrol.

The Customs revenue amounted to £3,847 as against £5,253 in 1929.

Imports.

The value of imports during the year amounted to £44,411 distributed as follows :—

	£
United Kingdom	36,160
South Africa	5,101
Foreign countries	3,150
	£44,411

Importations from South Africa and foreign countries were mainly food, drink, paraffin oil, petrol, and tobacco.

The principal differences as compared with 1929 were :—

	£
Increases—	
Chemicals and Drugs	146
Flour	468
Hardware	356
Machinery	286
Stationery	395
Mechanical Transport	4,085
Petrol	151
Decreases—	
Drapery	2,152
Grain	2,027
Paraffin Oil	1,981
Coal and Coke	296
Beer	292

Government imports in 1930 were valued at £3,871 as against £2,362 in 1929. The value of munitions of war is not included.

Exports.

The value of exports in 1930 amounted to £19,845 as against £38,571 in 1929, distributed as follows :—

	£
United Kingdom	18,699
South Africa	1,146

These exports are classified as follows :—

	United Kingdom.	*South Africa.*
	£	£
Raw Material	16,962	354
Manufactured Articles, produce and manufacture of the Colony	1,124	765
Re-exports	386	—

The principal differences in value as compared with 1929 are :—

	£
Increases—	
Rope and Twine	237
Decreases—	
Fibre	14,869
Tow	4,276

The quantities of fibre and tow exported in 1930 were 540 and 342 tons respectively, as compared with 889 and 505 tons in 1929.

V.—COMMUNICATIONS.

Shipping.

The number of ships calling at St. Helena and Ascension during the year 1930 was 40 as compared with 35 during 1929.

They were classified as follows :—

Mail steamers	26
British warships	1
Other ships	13

The total tonnage was 187,387 as compared with 173,459 during the year 1929.

The Union-Castle Company Line is the only one calling regularly at St. Helena and Ascension, and carries mails outward and homeward once a month.

Roads.

There are 62 miles of road in the island maintained by the Public Works Department, and the expenditure on this service during the year amounted to £1,050.

Motors are now permitted in St. Helena and though the scope for them is limited and the gradients are formidable, they will prove a great benefit from the social as well as from the economic point of view. At the end of the year fourteen cars and five lorries were licensed.

Posts, Telegraphs, and Telephones.

Postal communication is monthly between St. Helena and England and between St. Helena and South Africa.

The following statistics show a slight general decrease in the business of the Post Office as compared with 1929.

From England—	1929.	1930.
No. of Mails (bags)	248	256
Parcels	1,474	1,415
Registered Articles	914	885
Money and Postal Orders ...	£1,727	£1,304

	1929.	1930.
To England—		
No. of bags of Mail	61	71
Parcels	135	173
Registered Articles	1,771	1,543
Money and Postal Orders ...	£6,822	£5,966
From South Africa—		
No. of bags of Mail	41	41
Parcels	519	396
Registered Articles	556	459
Money and Postal Orders ...	£252	£207
To South Africa—		
No. of bags of Mail	21	26
Parcels	126	108
Registered Articles	454	430
Money and Postal Orders ...	£1,589	£2,196

The Eastern Telegraph Company have cable stations at St. Helena and Ascension, where messages are accepted for all parts of the world.

There is no internal post or telegraph service. A telephone system is maintained by private subscribers, the rate per instrument being £5 per annum. The number of instruments is 34. There are 43 miles of wire. The revenue during 1930 was £129 16s. 10d. against an expenditure of £106 10s. 0d.

In September, a loan of £1,000 was sanctioned on the recommendation of the Colonial Development Advisory Committee for the rehabilitation of the telephone service.

The terms of the loan were that it should be free of interest for one year, thereafter paying 2½ per cent per annum, and that it should be repayable by 5 per cent annuities.

VI.—JUSTICE, POLICE, AND PRISONS.

Subject to all local Ordinances and Orders in force, the law of the Colony is so much of the law of England for the time being as is suitable and appropriate as far as local circumstances permit.

By Royal Order in Council of the 13th February, 1839, the Supreme Court of St. Helena was established. The Governor acts as Chief Justice and is assisted by Assessors, who may be Members of Council or Justices of the Peace. By Ordinance 4 of 1927 the Court is empowered to hold Civil and Criminal Sessions at Ascension.

There were three cases before the Supreme Court during the year under review.

Police Court cases are dealt with by the Police Magistrate or by Justices of the Peace.

The number of cases reported to the Police was 142. In 67 cases action was taken in the Police Court resulting in 25 convictions. Of these convictions eight were for offences against Ordinances relating to the social economy of the island, five for offences against the person, four were for offences against property, and the others were for minor offences.

The Police force consists in St. Helena of a sergeant and five constables and in Ascension of two constables.

There is a small Debts Court established by Ordinance No. 2 of 1905. Its jurisdiction is over all requests for the recovery of sums not exceeding £25. The Judge of this Court is usually the Police Magistrate. Ten cases were heard in this Court during the year.

Gaol.

The number of persons committed to prison during the year was thirteen, and four were placed on remand.

VII.—PUBLIC WORKS.

The Public Works Department were concentrated on the reconstruction of Plantation House, and the work progressed so rapidly and successfully that it was necessary to anticipate funds that would be available during the next year. By the end of December the restoration was almost completed. An account of what has been a very creditable achievement on the part of the Department will be given in next year's Report.

Under Current Repairs two cottages were made habitable, Scotland Cottage and "Rock Cottage." Repairs were also carried out in the Girls' School and the Boys' School, and New Ground House was renovated. Other Government properties also received attention.

Damage caused by falling rocks and landslides on to the roads involved an expenditure of over £200.

Roads.

In connexion with the improvement of roads £1,000 had been provided in the Estimates: for mechanical transport, £500; and for re-surfacing, £500. In July the Colonial Development Advisory Committee recommended a free grant of £6,350 (subsequently sanctioned) for the improvement of roads in the island. In order to enable the Superintendent of Works to concentrate on Plantation, the roads were temporarily placed under the supervision of the Government Secretary. It was not, however, till the end of the year that additional road machinery, which the grant permitted, was available, and a road reconstruction programme could be fairly launched.

A good deal of attention has been given during the year to widening of roads, the improvement of corners, and the strengthening of walls.

Water Supplies.

During the year approval was given for a water supply for St. Paul's District, and work was well under way before the close of the year.

The new scheme will benefit Plantation House, and several dwellings in the near neighbourhood. It will also make possible a very desirable scheme of cottages and smallholdings, for which there are suitable areas.

VIII.—AGRICULTURE AND HORTICULTURE.

Further improvements were undertaken in the Public Garden in Jamestown. The garden is small but until it was taken in hand by the Horticultural Officer it had remained for years derelict and was an eyesore and a reproach.

In November the main street of the town was planted with Jacaranda trees. They have done well and it is expected that they will flower in three years.

Very considerable improvements have been made to Plantation House gardens and grounds, and their attractive appearance is a very fine setting for Plantation House.

Considerable attention was given during the year to the culture of flowers and vegetables and useful information has been obtained. Antirrhinums, stocks, carnations, sweet peas, dahlias, cornflowers, larkspurs were very successfully grown. As regards vegetables better results were experienced than in the previous year.

Government imported four hives of bees in March. Three of them were placed in Maldivia and one was handed over to Mr. Lester of the Eastern Telegraph Company. The bees have taken kindly to the island, the honey is excellent, and cultivated plants have greatly benefited. By the end of the year there were several wild swarms about the island.

On 22nd April, the first Arbor Day was held and an area in the country was planted with various trees by the Town School boys. The land is Government land leased to Solomon and Company, but the Hon. H. W. Solomon, O.B.E., readily released it for this small experiment in re-afforestation.

An allotment scheme has been started and a few plots were taken up.

It is the policy of the Government to encourage smallholdings, but cottages and a water supply are essential to the success of any scheme.

The sum of £1,000 was provided in the Estimates for the development of "Scotland Estate." From July to December extensive

clearing was undertaken. Two areas were planted with potatoes but it was found that the soil needed a good dressing of calcium or other fertilizer.

Some fruit trees were also planted and, with the exception of the grape vines and citrus trees, have made good growth.

An application was made to the Colonial Development Committee for assistance towards Horticultural Development in the island. This application received favourable consideration but before making a grant the Committee decided to provide funds for the visit of a geologist and of a forestry expert.

IX.—PUBLIC HEALTH.

The estimated civil population of St. Helena on the 31st of December, 1930, was 3,905, an increase of 65 since the same date in the previous year. In the past five years the population shows an estimated increase of 145.

The deaths in St. Helena during the year numbered 40, the same as in the previous year. For the past ten years the death-rate has an annual average of 12.00 per 1,000.

The deaths according to age were :—

Under 1 year	8
Between 1—10 years	5
„ 10—30 „	5
„ 30—60 „	3
„ 60—80 „	10
Over 80	4

There were 120 births as against 121 in 1929, a birth-rate of 30.98 as against 31.46.

There were 39 marriages as compared with 34 in 1929.

Health.

Throughout the year the health of the island was good.

A medical examination of school children was carried out during 1929, the total number examined being 713. Cleanliness was reported to be above the average for European children. Adenoids were practically non-existent, and defective vision was present in very few cases. Since the appointment of the Government Dentist a great improvement in the state of the children's teeth was noticeable. As regards height and weight, taking English children as normal, it was found that the height of town children was above normal and that of country children below. The weight of both town and country children was below normal, and as between town and country children the advantage was with the country children.

For most of the year the island was without a dentist, no successor to Mr. Murray, who was transferred early in the year to Seychelles, being appointed.

X.—EDUCATION.

There are eight primary schools in the island. Three are Government schools, three are maintained by the Hussey Charity, established in 1865 originally for the redemption of slaves, one by the Benevolent Society founded in 1814 for educational purposes and acts of benevolence, and one by the Bishop's Diocesan Fund. These schools provide for about 700 children.

A Government grant of £100 is given to the Hussey Charity Schools, of £20 to the Benevolent School, and of £15 to the Diocesan Fund School.

There is, however, no provision for technical or secondary education. As regards the former, the comparatively extensive programme of public works and the establishment of a horticultural department will afford some opportunities for training boys. In the case of girls it is proposed when funds are available to start a school of domestic economy under a trained teacher.

Pupil teachers from all the schools attend weekly classes in more or less secondary subjects covering a course of four years. The instruction includes English, elementary French, Algebra, Arithmetic, Geography, History, and Hygiene. These classes are conducted by the Rev. L. C. Walcott, Vicar of the Parish Church, who also acts as Superintendent of Education.

The expenditure on education during the year amounted to £830.

XI.—LANDS.

Sir Daniel Morris estimated the area of St. Helena to be 28,000 acres, "Of this area probably 20,000 acres or more than two-thirds are composed of barren rocky wastes or clayey slopes totally unfit in their present condition for any agricultural operations." More recent estimates give the area of agricultural and pastural lands as 10,000 acres.

The multiplicity of records and the diversity of titles introduce some degree of confusion into the tenure of land in the island.

Among the terms in the early days of the East India Company under which land was granted to "the planters, their heirs, and assignees for ever" was the condition "An Englishman to be kept on every ten acres, and to take his turn to appear in arms on guard." Appearance on guard, watch and ward, as it was termed, was commuted as early as 1683 for a payment of 2*s.* an acre, subsequently reduced to 1*s.* an acre. As regards the maintenance of an Englishman on every ten acres, the Court of Directors sent instructions in 1717 "not to enforce too rigorously" this condition.

The lands which bore this charge of 1*s.* an acre became known as "free" lands.

The Company also granted leases. In 1828 the Court conveyed to the Governor their approval of the conversion of leaseholds into permanent tenure, "We are . . . prepared to sanction the grant to such of the parties now holding temporary leases as may by their management of the property and the buildings they have erected have proved themselves worthy of the boon of a permanent title to the lands, with a reservation, however, of our right in each case, when the public service may demand it, to resume possession of the land upon the payment of its valuation, to be assessed by a jury, providing also that a quit rent varying from 3*s*. per acre to 6*d*. per acre to be in like manner assessed."

These lands became known locally as "permanent tenure" land.

Lastly, under a Proclamation dated the 7th of August, 1843, the Government gave notice that it would commute the ground rents of the several tenures into rent-free grants at 10 or 12½ years rental according to the nature of the tenure. A considerable number of grantees took advantage of this offer. It does not appear that the right of Government to resume for public purposes was made a condition in this scheme of commutation.

There is still a considerable area of Government land on lease, and during recent years a number of small plots have been granted to smallholders, originally for growing flax.

The number of properties on the Government rent roll amounts to 427, representing about £1,200 per annum in rents.

It is difficult to arrive at the market value of land owing to the paucity of transactions, but from £7 10*s*. to £10 an acre would not be an unreasonable price for cultivated land.

The only legislation dealing with land is Ordinance No. 1 of 1893, to simplify conveyancing and titles to land and to provide for registration.

XII.—LABOUR CONDITIONS AND COST OF LIVING.

Wages for skilled and semi-skilled workmen vary from 3/6 to 5/6 per day and for unskilled labour from 2/– to 2/6 per day of about eight hours. Women are paid less.

The Government minimum wage is 2/6 per day, amounting to 15/– a week of forty-five hours, the half day on Saturday counting as a full day.

In domestic service the monthly wage for housemaids varies from 10/– to £2, for cooks from 30/– to £4 5s., and for male servants from 30/– to £4 15s.

There is no Government insurance against sickness, unemployment, or old age.

In the case of sickness the St. Helenians themselves to a great extent have been accustomed to provide for sick pay and also for burial expenses by insurance in one or more of the Friendly Societies, which have been for many years a feature of the social economy of the island.

The law governing these Societies is Ordinance No. 31 of 1839. It provides for the formation of Societies " for the mutual relief and maintenance of all and every the members thereof their wives, children, relations, and nominees, in sickness, infancy, advanced age, widowhood, or any other natural state or contingency, whereof the occurrence is susceptible of calculation by way of average, or for any other purpose which is not illegal." It provides also for the making of " proper and wholesome rules," for the rendering of accounts, and for the hearing of complaints before two Justices of the Peace. It is provided further that the Acts of Parliament of 10th George IV. chap. 56 and the 4th and 5th William IV chap. 40, as far as the same are applicable and not repugnant to the Colony's Ordinance shall be in force in the Colony. This Ordinance has stood for nearly a century without the demand or, apparently, the need for revision, except that by the Children Life Insurance Ordinance of 1921 insurance on the life of children under five years of age is prohibited.

There are four Friendly Societies for men with a recorded membership of 1,581, but as already stated several persons are members of more than one Society. The male population of the island of fourteen years of age and over may be estimated at approximately 1,200.

The oldest of the Societies is the Mechanics' Society founded in 1839. The membership is 376 and the amount of the invested funds is £765. The weekly subscription is 6d., and the sick relief granted is 1/6 per day, decreasing after six months. The burial allowance is £4 or £8 for a member and £3 or £6 for his wife, the higher rate being payable after twelve months' membership.

The St. Helena Poor Society was founded in 1847. It has a membership of 478, and its invested funds amount to £4,900. The monthly subscription is 6d. and it is provided that while the capital remains at £4,000 and upwards the sum of £170 may be expended in sick relief, but no member shall receive more than 5/- per month. The grant for burial expenses varies from £8 to £14 according to length of membership.

The Foresters were established in 1871. The membership is 400 and the invested funds amount to £1,662. The subscription is 3/- to 4/- a month. The sick benefit is 2/- per day decreasing according to the duration of the illness. The allowance for funeral expenses is £14 for a member and £7 for his wife.

The St. Helena Working Men's Christian Association was founded in 1875. Its membership is 327 and its invested funds amount to £570. The subscription is 6d. per week. The rate of sick relief is 1/6 per day decreasing after six months. The burial allowance is £8 for a member and £4 for his wife or widow.

The Societies provide also for medical attendance and medicines. There is an entrance fee payable according to age.

For women there is the Church Provident Society established in 1878. The number of members is 297 and the funds amount to £500. There is no fixed allowance for sick relief, but while the capital remains at £300 grants of varying amounts are made.

The burial allowance is £4 and £3 for members of over or under twelve months' standing. Provision is made for medical attendance and medicines.

Unemployment more or less severe has to be reckoned with from time to time. During the year under review it threatened to attain serious proportions owing to the closing down of all the flax mills except those of Solomon and Company. Subscriptions for a Relief Fund were raised, but the grants from the Colonial Development Committee help to ease the situation.

Whether sound or not economically and socially, the principle that it is better to employ two men at 2/- a day each than one man at 4/- a day does tend to keep unemployment down. The aim of Government as and when funds permit is to establish new opportunities for employment in the island and to train St. Helenians for employment outside.

As regards old age pensions it has been calculated that the sum of approximately £1,500 a year would suffice to provide all persons of over 70 with a pension of five shillings a week.

There is a Poor Relief Board, established under the Poor Relief Ordinance, 1914. Its members are elected annually by the rate-payers, and they shall be a Board " for the care and management of the concerns of the poor." " They shall examine into the state and condition of the poor and shall enquire into and determine the proper objects of relief, and the nature and amount of the relief to be given, and shall enquire into and superintend the collection and administration of all monies to be raised and applied by the Parish to the relief of the poor." The annual revenue of the Board is about £900 to £1,000, derived from a 5d. rate, and a Government contribution of £82.

Cost of Living.

The cost of living is moderate. Good meat, including fowls, is obtainable at 1/- per lb., fish is cheap and good, eggs vary according to season from 1/6 to 2/- per dozen, fresh butter is 2/6 per lb., fresh milk and fresh vegetables are usually obtainable at reasonable prices, rice, which with fish forms the staple diet of the St. Helenian, is 3d. per lb.

There are no duties on imported foodstuffs. On wines the duty is 4/- per gallon, and on spirits under proof 12/6 per gallon. The duty on cigarettes is 3/- per lb. and on pipe tobacco 2/- per lb.; on unmanufactured tobacco it is 6d. per lb.

There is a five per cent. *ad valorem* duty on certain articles regarded as luxuries, which brings in about £120 a year to the revenue.

XIII.—MISCELLANEOUS.

Meteorology.

At Hutt's Gate, 1,900 feet, where the principal observations are taken, the rainfall for the year was 29½ inches. The heaviest fall was .92 on the 28th May. At Plantation at the other end of the island the rainfall was 29.87 and the heaviest fall was 1.36 on the 27th May. The number of raindays at Hutt's Gate was 203 and at Plantation 178. The rainfall decreases as sea-level is approached till at Jamestown it is usually below ten inches.

At Ascension the rainfall for the year on Green Mountain, about 1,900 feet, was 29.25 inches, and at Georgetown, sea-level, 3.2 inches.

Legislation.

Nine Ordinances, five Orders in Council, and three Proclamations were issued in the course of the year.

During the year a Revised Edition of the Ordinances of the Colony was published. It had been prepared by Mr. Leslie Lea, late Legal Adviser and Crown Prosecutor in the Colony.

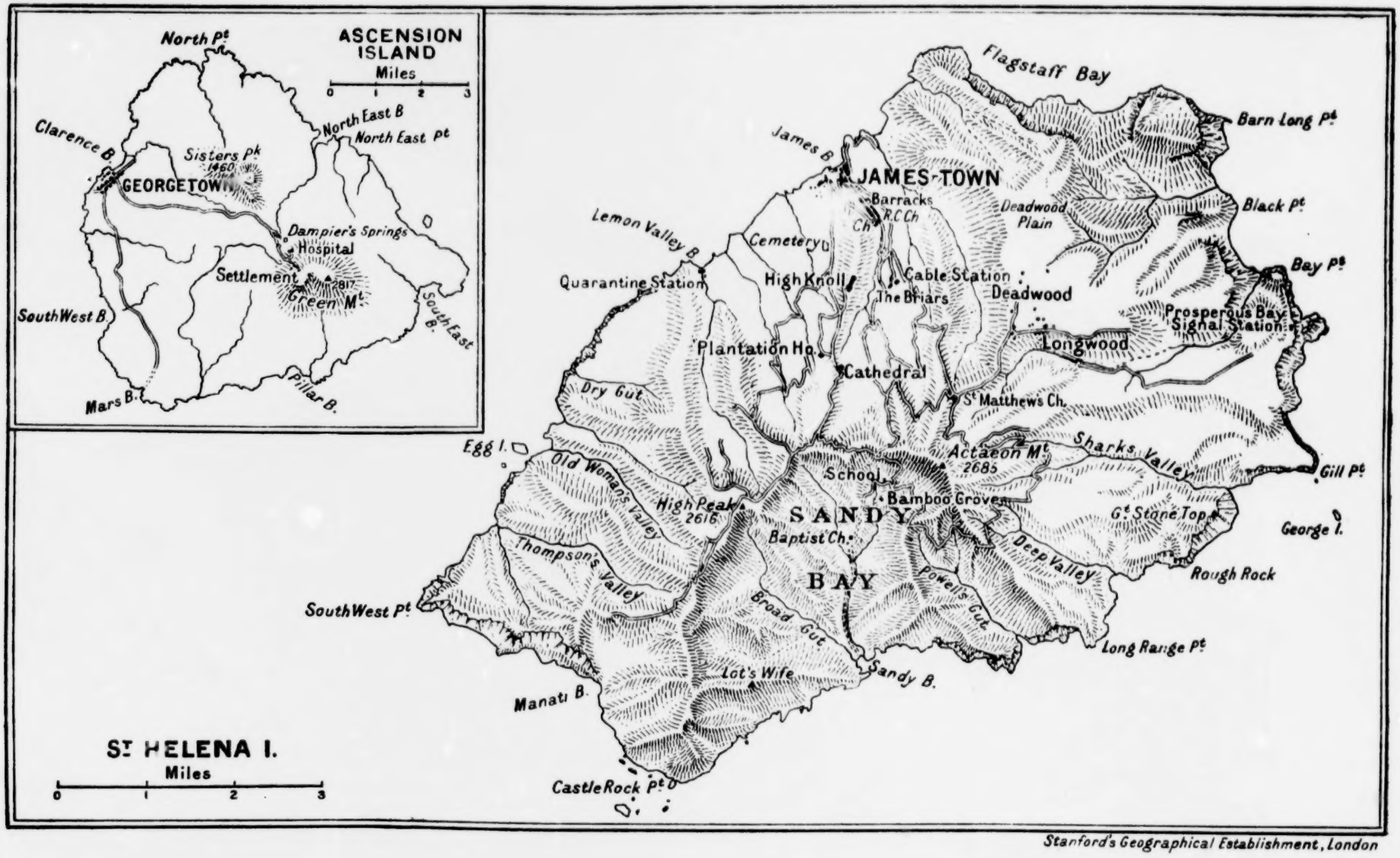
The last Edition was published in 1854.

Staff.

The Governor proceeded on leave at the end of June and returned at the end of December. During His Excellency's absence Major C. A. C. Lucas, O.B.E., Officer Commanding Troops, assumed the Administration.

Miss Hainsworth was appointed Nursing Sister vice Miss Thompson whose term of engagement had expired.

Mr. Murray the Government Dentist was transferred to Seychelles.



Stanford's Geographical Establishment, London

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EMPIRE MARKETING BOARD PUBLICATIONS.

Note on the work of the Board and Statement of Research and other Grants approved by the Secretary of State from July, 1926, to March, 1930. Cmd. 3637. 6d. (7d.).

Agricultural Economics in the Empire. (E.M.B. 1.) 6d. (7d.).

Tropical Agricultural Research in the Empire, with special reference to Cacao, Sugar Cane, Cotton and Palms. (E.M.B. 2.) 1s. 6d. (1s. 9d.).

Geophysical Surveying. Report of a Sub-Committee of the Committee of Civil Research. November 1927. (E.M.B. 6.) 6d. (7d.).

The Chemistry of Wine Making. A Report on Oenological Research. (E.M.B. 7.) 1s. 0d. (1s. 2d.).

Grass and Fodder Crop Conservation in Transportable Form. (E.M.B. 8.) 1s. 0d. (1s. 2d.).

Empire Grown Sisal and its importance to the Cordage Manufacturer. (E.M.B. 10.) 6d. (8d.).

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Report on Insect Infestation of Dried Fruit. (E.M.B. 12.) 1s. 0d. (1s. 2d.).

Grapefruit Culture in the British West Indies and British Honduras. (E.M.B. 13.) 1s. 0d. (1s. 2d.).

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Composition of Pastures. June, 1929. (E.M.B. 18.) 9d. (11d.).

Panama Disease of Bananas. Reports on scientific visits to the Banana growing countries of the West Indies, Central and South America. July, 1929. (E.M.B. 20.) 1s. 6d. (1s. 10d.).

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ST. HELENA
1931

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CHAPTER I.

Geography, Climate and History.

The Colony of St. Helena consists of the Island of St. Helena with the Island of Ascension as a Dependency.

St. Helena.

St. Helena, 47 square miles in area, the size of Jersey, lies in latitude 15° 55′ South and longitude 5° 42′ West. It is about 950 miles due south of the Equator, 4,000 miles from England, and 1,700 miles from Cape Town. The voyage from England occupies about a fortnight, and from Cape Town five days.

The Island is of volcanic origin. The latest account of its geology is a report by Professor Daly of Harvard University, who visited the

Island at the end of 1921. This report appears in the *Proceedings of the American Academy of Arts and Sciences*, Vol. 62, No. 2, March, 1927. Professor Daly is of the opinion that St. Helena dates from pre-Glacial time, and is probably pre-Pliocene.

The aspect of St. Helena from the sea is menacing. The Island rises abruptly in stark cliffs, 400 to 2,000 feet in height, pierced by deep narrow valleys. Behind these grim outworks, however, the ground advances through pleasant scenery recalling parts of England or Wales, to a serrated ridge stretched across the middle of the Island. There are three peaks with an altitude of approximately 2,700 feet on this ridge from which magnificient views are obtainable.

Situated in the heart of the South-East Trades, far from any land mass, and surrounded by the cool waters of the South Atlantic current, St. Helena possesses a mild and equable climate.

ASCENSION.

Ascension Island lies in latitude 7° 53′ South and longitude 14° 18′ West, about 700 miles north-west of St. Helena. It has an area of 34 square miles.

The Island is of volcanic origin, and, as in the case of St. Helena, the most recent account of its geology is a report by Professor Daly which appeared in the *Proceedings of the American Academy of Arts and Sciences*, Vol. 60, No. 1, June, 1925. Professor Daly observes that from the time of its discovery no sign of volcanic activity, not even a hot spring, has been reported though geologically the island is extremely young. He thinks it possible that the whole mass above sea-level has been erupted during post-Glacial time.

From the sea Ascension appears bleak and desolate. Green Mountain, however, 2,800 feet high, relieves with its vegetation the barren and depressing effect of the larger part of the island and affords pasture for about 600 sheep and cattle.

At the present time the Island is an important Cable Station, and its only inhabitants are English and St. Helenian employees of the Cable Company. They have admirably succeeded in importing into their surroundings a spirit of cheerfulness, and in addition to the usual forms of recreation that appeal to a community of Englishmen there is the possibility of big game fishing.

The St. Helena Development Company which has interests in the phosphate and mineral deposits on the Island has temporarily suspended local operations.

A note on the climate of St. Helena and Ascension will be found in the Report for 1929—Colonial Reports, No. 1,475. The same Report also contains a note on the history of the Islands.

CHAPTER II.

Government.

By an Act of William IV, dated the 28th of August, 1833, the Island of St. Helena, as from the 22nd of April, 1834, was transferred from the East India Company and became vested in the Crown.

Provision for the authority and appointment of Governor, for the establishment of a Council to assist the Governor, and for the making and promulgation of laws, was made by a Royal Order in Council dated the 12th day of October, 1835. This Order was revoked by an Order dated the 27th of July, 1863, and fresh provision was made.

The Executive Council as it exists at present was established by "The St Helena Order in Council, 1929," revoking previous Orders. By Instructions issued on the 5th of June, 1929, it is provided that the Council shall consist of the Senior Military Officer in command of regular troops in the Island and of the person holding the substantive appointment of Government Secretary of the Island, as *ex-officio* members, and of such other persons as may from time to time be appointed. Provision was also included for the appointment of Extraordinary members on special occasions.

At the present time there are three Unofficial members of Council.

Subject to the reservation of power for legislation by Parliament and by the Privy Council the Order of 1863 provides for the making of laws by the Governor. It is also laid down under "The Interpretation and General Law Ordinance, 1875," that "a copy of the draft of every Ordinance shall be affixed to a board in front of the Court House for the inspection of the Public for one month before the passing thereof; . . . provided always that in any case in which the Governor-in-Council thinks it urgently necessary to dispense with such public notification . . . he may do so."

The Island is not large enough to afford scope for any system of local Government as ordinarily understood. There are, however, to be described later, a Poor Relief Board elected by ratepayers, and a Board of Health, of which three of the members are elected by ratepayers, while the duty of sickness insurance is one that the St. Helenians have for many years taken upon and managed for themselves. The ratepayers, moreover, still maintain the custom of public meeting as it existed in connexion with Vestries under the East India Company. Under the Company's By-Laws a Vestry could be held whenever it may be deemed requisite to take the sense of the meeting on any subject connected with the interest of the inhabitants.

ASCENSION.

By Letters Patent dated the 12th of September, 1922, Ascension became a Dependency of St. Helena and it was provided that the Governor and Executive Council of St. Helena should have the same powers in relation to Ascension as they possess in relation to St. Helena.

CHAPTER III.

Population.

At the time of its discovery in 1502 St. Helena was uninhabited, and so it remained until the East India Company, a century and a half later, assumed possession and introduced settlers from England.

The English environment which was created by the English colonists has persisted ever since. There existed no indigenous social system as an alternative and the language of the island has always been English.

Thus it is that the St. Helenians of to-day, varied as they are in descent, are in their ideas and sentiments essentially English, as English as a great deal of the Island scenery. They are generally of light build and of pleasing appearance; they have a well deserved reputation for civility and courtesy and for a law-abiding disposition.

On the night of the 26th of April the decennial census of the population was taken. The population had risen since the last census from 3,715 to 3,995, an increase of 280. It is satisfactory to note that there has been an increase of 307 in the population of the country districts.

Deaths during the year numbered 59, as against 40 in 1930, a death-rate of 14.77 per 1,000. During the past ten years the death-rate has averaged 13 per 1,000.

The births registered during the year were 123 as against 120 in 1930, a birth-rate of 30.8 per 1,000 population. The number of deaths of children under one year was 19, an infant mortality rate of 154.4 per 1,000 births. The average infant mortality rate for the past ten years is 113 per 1,000 births.

There was no emigration or immigration during the year except for the arrival and departure of a few visitors.

The population of Ascension at the end of the year numbered 159 of whom 107 were St. Helenians. There were no births or deaths recorded during the year.

CHAPTER IV.

Health.

The Medical Establishment during the year consisted of a Colonial Surgeon, an Assistant Colonial Surgeon, a Surgeon Dentist, and at the Hospital two English Nurses and three St. Helena girls in training as Probationers.

The general health of the Island was good. Admissions to Hospital numbered 119, and there were ten major operations. There were mild outbreaks of measles, brought from South Africa, and of chicken-pox, and the usual recurrence of influenza of a mild type, which appears on the Island generally in February.

During the year the Hospital was vacated and handed over to the Public Works Department for repairs. Patients were transferred to the building known as the Military Hospital which for some years has been unoccupied.

The Board of Health, composed of three members elected by ratepayers and a Chairman and three members nominated by the Governor, met regularly during the year. The principal matters that came up for discussion were the town water-supply, the importation of second-hand clothing, the detention of intermediate mental cases, the inspection of school sanitary arrangements and of cowsheds.

Weekly lectures were given at the Hospital to the Probationers and also instruction in dispensing, and on the initiative of Dr. Cramer, Assistant Colonial Surgeon, a course of practical instruction in nursing was given to women in the country, which is likely to prove of value in the future.

An arrangement by which in maternity cases medicine and tablets were given free at the Hospital was taken advantage of by seventy women.

Dressing stations were established in the country at Hutt's Gate and Sandy Bay and were visited weekly.

The Poor House, under the management of a Poor Relief Board of five members elected by ratepayers and meeting every fortnight, was visited weekly by the Colonial Surgeon. The health of inmates, who number thirty, was fair.

A Lunatic Asylum is maintained under the direction and management of the Poor Relief Board, subject to the general control of the Governor. The number of inmates at the end of the year was six. It is visited weekly by the Colonial Surgeon. The health of the inmates during the year was good.

The sanitation of Jamestown was satisfactorily carried out at an expenditure of £176. The water-supply is good but at certain times in the year is apt to be restricted.

The drainage works established under " The Jamestown Drainage Ordinance, 1904 " worked satisfactorily during the year.

Mr. W. Johnston, L.R.C.P., M.R.D.S., was appointed Dental Surgeon in the course of the year in succession to Mr. Murray transferred to Seychelles. He has found that in the case of the school children there is a good deal of work to be done, due probably to a deficiency of lime in the water-supply and to insufficient and wrong feeding.

CHAPTER V.

Housing.

Generally speaking housing conditions are not satisfactory, but the census returns record some slight improvement during the past ten years.

The returns show that there are 1,504 persons or 38 per cent. of the population living in not more than two rooms, and that nearly a third of that number live in one room. In 1921 the number of persons living in not more than two rooms was 1,502. On the other hand, it appears that there are 1,426 persons, or over 35 per cent. of the population, living in four rooms or more. In 1921 the number of such persons was 1,223. Taking the total figures at the last census there appear to be 4.7 persons to a " house " as against 5.3 in 1921.

A scheme for the restoration of some of the dilapidated Government buildings chiefly in Jamestown, and for a new Poor House and Asylum at a cost of £8,500 has been prepared, but owing to lack of funds cannot be proceeded with.

The scheme provided incidentally for accommodation of about fifty persons.

From the point of view of social welfare it may well be argued that new houses are a better investment in the country than in the town. There is more regular work in the country and in times of depression experience has shown that the country people fare better than those in the town. It is satisfactory to record therefore that in the five years 1925-1929 the number of houses built or restored in the country districts was thirty-five.

The only legislation dealing with over-crowding is a provision in " The Public Health Ordinance, 1899 " which gives the Board of Health or any Justice of the Peace power to decide the number of persons who may live in any house or room, the minimum space allowed being three hundred cubic feet for each adult. The section is practically a dead letter but it provides the minimum accommodation required in new houses.

CHAPTER VI.

Production.

The welfare of St. Helena is bound up with the cultivation of the land. This was the opinion of Sir Daniel Morris in 1883. " I look entirely to the soil ", he wrote, " for the elements to bring prosperity to St. Helena ". Fifty years later Mr. Mason who came from South Africa to report on the Island's agriculture, came to the conclusion that St. Helena " was a country for the smallholder ".

Fibre Production.—The only industry of importance at the present time is the cultivation of *Phormium tenax* (New Zealand flax) and the manufacture of fibre and tow from its leaves.

Flax first appears in the agricultural returns for 1873, when 100 acres were said to be given over to its cultivation. In the following year machinery was set up for the extraction of fibre from aloe and from *Phormium tenax*, and from 1875 to 1881 there were exports of fibre from both plants, the highest returns being 100 tons and 83 tons in 1879 and 1880 respectively. Prices then fell, and after 1881 the export ceased.

In June, 1906, a deputation consisting of Messrs. H. B. Morrice, H. J. Bovell, and H. W. Solomon interviewed the Secretary of State for the Colonies and urged the establishment of a Government flax mill in the Island. With the assistance of a grant-in-aid, flax planting was encouraged, an expert was obtained from New Zealand, and the Government mill was opened in 1907. In 1913 Solomon and Co. opened their first mill, followed three years later by Deason Brothers, and in 1923 W. A. Thorpe and Sons also began milling operations.

The area under the cultivation of *Phormium tenax* is estimated at approximately 2,000 acres. The cultivation is suitable for the smallholders and is taken up by them, but by far the greater proportion of the acreage is the property of the millowners themselves.

The Government Mill is now leased to Solomon and Company, and under the terms of their lease they are required to accept the leaves of the smallholders. At the present price obtaining for fibrous products the Government Mill is the only market the smallholders have for their leaves.

The fibre and tow is exported to England, but for some years Captain Mainwaring has been interested in the manufacture of rope and twine from the local fibre and a small export industry has arisen. Samples of the rope and twine recently submitted for examination to the Imperial Institute received encouraging reports. The development of this industry would be of the greatest benefit to the Island.

Horticulture.—In the past St. Helena was famous for its fruit, its coffee, and its vegetables. In the days of the East India Company the apples, mulberries, quinces, were said "to have come to perfection." Some St. Helena coffee shipped to England in 1845 fetched 1d. per lb. more than any other description, and a sample sent to the London Exhibition in 1851 obtained the first prize for quality. In more recent years consignments of potatoes were shipped to the Cape and a report on them in 1906 stated "there is no doubt the quality is excellent and they will command the best figure in the market." It was the opinion, moreover, of Sir Daniel Morris in 1883 that by that date if Mr. Chalmers, who had been sent from Kew in 1869, had not soon after been retrenched, the cultivation of tobacco would have become an established industry.

It is satisfactory to report in this connexion that since May the Union Castle Company have placed small but regular orders for the supply to their ships calling at St. Helena of vegetables, fruit, and eggs. The value of the commodities supplied from May to December was approximately £250.

In view of the prospects of developing the business with the Union Castle Company particular attention was given by the Horticultural Department to the cultivation of vegetables. The cultivation of flowers also received special attention and the gardens in the town and at Plantation House were made most attractive. Unfortunately the attempt at flower selling to the passengers from ships was not a success.

Samples of Island-grown coffee were submitted to the Imperial Institute for examination. It was reported under date 29th May (as published in the June Gazette) that the coffee should be saleable at about 50s. per cwt., Brazilian coffee at that date being quoted at 48s. to 53s. per cwt.

The bees have done well during the year and may now be regarded as established.

Arber Day was celebrated by the planting of trees at Half Tree Hollow, but unfortunately the fencing was not sufficiently secure against the raids by goats.

Farming.—Farming is carried on to a limited extent to supply local needs, and as a rule meat and vegetables are purchased by His Majesty's Ships when visiting St. Helena. According to the census returns there were 876 head of cattle and 2,326 sheep on the Island, a reduction since 1921 of 166 cattle and 655 sheep. The large landowners have found the fibre industry more profitable than farming and in any case there does not appear to be a market for more stock than the Island now carries.

According to census figures there were 1,433 goats on the Island, the same number as ten years ago. There are 252 pigs and 1,221 donkeys, an increase in ten years of 38 and 98 respectively. It would appear, therefore, that the small landowner has fared not unsuccessfully.

The census returns relating to land reveal the fact that 60 per cent. of the occupied land is in the possession of two owners, and that over 70 per cent. is in the possession of three owners. There has not necessarily been any engrossing of the land with sinister intent, but it is the fact that only two or three persons on the Island have capital or enterprise for acquiring land as it comes into the market. There has certainly been no difficulty in obtaining land for public needs.

As observed earlier in the Report, the country population has increased during the past ten years, and during that period Government has granted 120 leases of small plots of land.

Fisheries.—At one time an attempt was made to start a fish-curing industry in the Island, but the project failed. It is thought that supplies of fish are not more than sufficient for local needs.

Lace-making.—This industry was started in St. Helena in 1897 by Mrs. Jackson, a resident in the Island. She had been impressed with its possibility as an industry for women and girls from the success which had attended a similar enterprise in Madagascar. In 1907 the Imperial Treasury gave a grant to assist and develop the industry, and an Association was formed under the presidency of the Bishop with a committee of ladies to assist in the management. The Association dissolved the following year and the industry passed into Government control. A Government lace school was established and Miss Girdwood was appointed Manageress. She soon came to the opinion that the talent of the St. Helenian was strongly in favour of the needle rather than the pillow. Reports on the work of the school were encouraging and it was considered worth while to adopt old Italian patterns and to aim at production of a high quality. It was stated in 1914 that the laces were of excellent quality and workmanship, were chiefly of Florentine and old Italian designs, and that but for the outbreak of war the school would have shown a substantial profit. In 1916 Miss Girdwood was compelled on account of ill-health to resign her appointment; the school then closed and has not since been reopened. Messrs. Solomon and Company have opened a depot in town where the lace can now be purchased, but the St. Helena lace finds difficulty in competing with machine-made lace and with work of cheaper quality.

Ascension.

The only export from Ascension at the present time is that of turtles. The number of turtles captured during the year was 186. In former years the export of turtles was on a considerable scale, 750 being exported in 1834, 600 in 1850, and 650 in 1853.

At Green Mountain the Cable Company maintain a farm for local needs. At the end of the year the stock consisted of 21 cattle, 376 sheep, and some pigs.

CHAPTER VII.

Commerce.

The value of the Colony's external trade during the year amounted to £56,650.

For the past five years the returns have been as follows :—

	£
1927	83,952
1928	80,307
1929	85,976
1930	64,256
1931	56,650

The value of imports during the year amounted to £43,883, a decrease of £500 as compared with the previous year.

The distribution of imports for the past four years has been as follows :—

	1928.	1929.	1930.	1931.
	£	£	£	£
United Kingdom ...	39,735	34,848	36,160	35,920
South Africa ...	7,595	8,051	5,101	5,218
Foreign Countries ...	1,700	4,506	3,150	2,745

Importations from South Africa and foreign countries were mainly food, drink, paraffin oil, petrol, and tobacco.

The value of exports amounted to £12,767 as compared with £19,845 in 1930. The value of specie exported was £828, as against none in 1930.

The distribution of exports during the past four years has been :—

	1928.	1929.	1930.	1931.
	£	£	£	£
United Kingdom ...	29,321	36,175	18,699	12,205
South Africa ...	1,946	2,396	1,146	562

The chief articles of export are fibre and tow and rope and twine, the latter going to South Africa, the former to England and occasionally to South Africa.

For the past five years the statistics of these exports are :—

	Fibre.		*Tow.*		*Rope and Twine.*	
	Tons.	£	*Tons.*	£	*Tons.*	£
1927 ...	738	24,542	365	7,963	18	810
1928 ...	770	22,515	380	6,933	26½	1,246
1929 ...	889	26,759	505	9,191	51	2,051
1930 ...	540	11,890	342	4,915	52	2,243
1931 ...	644	10,975	296	3,693	23	300

The quantity of fibre, tow, etc., exported in 1930 was 934 tons, valued at £19,048; the quantity in 1931 was 963 tons, valued at £14,968. The decrease in the value of exports thus arises from the fall in price and not in quantity.

CHAPTER VIII.

Wages and Cost of Living.

Wages for skilled and semi-skilled workmen vary from 3s. 6d. to 5s. 6d. per day.

The Government minimum wage for adult unskilled labour is 2s. 6d. per day, amounting to 15s. for a week of forty-five hours, the half day on Saturday counting as a full day.

In the flax mills the average daily rate for men is 2s. for an eight or nine hour day. The wages paid to women are 1s. to 1s. 6d. per day.

In the rope works the wages for men average from 32s. 6d. to 13s. 6d. per week, and for women from 10s. to 7s. 6d.

The number of persons employed in the flax mills is two hundred and forty-six and in the rope works twelve.

In domestic service the monthly wage with board and lodging for housemaids varies from 10s. to £2, for cooks from 30s. to £4 5s., and for male servants from 30s. to £4 15s.

The cost of living is moderate and varied little during the year. Good meat, including fowls, is obtainable at 1s. per lb., fish is cheap and good, eggs vary, according to season, from 1s. 6d. to 2s. per dozen; fresh butter is 2s. 6d. per lb., fresh milk and fresh vegetables are usually obtainable at reasonable prices; rice, which with fish forms the staple diet of the St. Helenian, is 2½d. per lb.

There are no duties on imported foodstuffs. On wines the duty is 4s. per gallon, and on spirits under proof 27s. 6d. per gallon. The duty on cigarettes is 3s. per lb. and on pipe tobacco 2s. per lb. There is a 10 per cent. *ad valorem* duty on certain articles regarded as luxuries.

From time to time accommodation is available for visitors, and St. Helena has attractions as a place of residence for those who seek a genial climate and quietude. It is estimated that two people could live comfortably and in full enjoyment of all the Island has to offer on £35 to £40 a month. With a more limited range of activity two people could live within £250 to £300 a year.

CHAPTER IX.

Education and Welfare Institutions.

Education in the Colony is limited to primary education. There are three Government schools, one for boys and one for girls in Jamestown, and a mixed school in the country. Three schools are maintained by the Hussey Charity, established in 1865 on the bequest of Rebecca Hussey, one is maintained by the St. Helena Benevolent Society founded in 1814, and one is supported out of the St. Helena Diocesan Fund which is itself dependent upon voluntary contributions.

A Government grant of £100 is given to the Hussey Charity Schools, of £20 to the Benevolent Society School, and of £15 to the Diocesan Fund School. The Government expenditure on education during the year amounted to £840.

The number of children attending the Government schools is 309, and the number at the other schools is 429.

The education is sound in its elementary character and the schools are cheerful and the children bright. The handwriting generally is good, and the girls' needlework is often excellent.

As regards technical education for boys there are some opportunities for training apprentices in the Public Works and Horticultural Departments. For girls as soon as funds are available it is proposed to establish a Domestic Science School under

a trained teacher. At present there are three appointments for them in the Hospital as Probationers, and the training there will greatly help to qualify them as children's nurses. St. Helena girls when trained make good cooks and domestic servants, and opportunities for their employment and for the employment of youths offer in Ascension, South Africa, and occasionally in England.

There is no Government insurance against old age, unemployment, or sickness.

As regards old age pensions there are according to the recent census one hundred and two persons over seventy years of age. It would thus require about £1,300 per annum to provide old age pensions of 5s. a week.

Unemployment more or less severe has to be reckoned with from time to time. It was serious during the year owing to the collapse of the fibre market, but to some extent was mitigated by the grant for roads made by the Colonial Development Committee.

There is a Poor Relief Board, established under the Poor Relief Ordinance, 1914. Its members are elected annually by the ratepayers. The annual revenue of the Board is about £900 to £1,000, derived from a 5d. rate, and a Government contribution of £82.

In the case of sickness the St. Helenians themselves to a great extent have been accustomed to provide for sick pay and also for burial expenses by insurance in one or more of the Friendly Societies, which have been for many years a feature of the social economy of the Island.

There are four Friendly Societies for men with a recorded membership of 1,569, but as already stated several persons are members of more than one Society. The male population of the Island over fourteen years of age may be estimated at approximately 1,218.

The oldest of the Societies is the Mechanics' Society founded in 1838. The membership is 381 and the amount of the invested funds is £845. The weekly subscription is 6d., and the sick relief granted is 1s. 6d. per day, decreasing after six months. The burial allowance is £4 or £8 for a member and £3 or £6 for his wife, the higher rate being payable after twelve months' membership.

The St. Helena Poor Society was founded in 1847. It has a membership of 463, and its invested funds amount to £4,400. The monthly subscription is 6d. and it is provided that while the capital remains at £4,000 and upwards the sum of £170 may be expended in sick relief, but no member shall receive more than 5s. per month. The grant for burial expenses varies from £8 to £14 according to length of membership.

The Foresters were established in 1871. The membership is 400 and the invested funds amount to £1,650. The subscription is 3s. to 4s. a month. The sick benefit is 2s. per day decreasing according to the duration of the illness. The allowance for funeral expenses is £14 for a member and £7 for his wife.

The St. Helena Working Men's Christian Association was founded in 1875. Its membership is 325 and its invested funds amount to £530. The subscription is 6d. per week. The rate of sick relief is 1s. 6d. per day decreasing after six months. The burial allowance is £8 for a member and £4 for his wife or widow.

The Societies provide also for medical attendance and medicines. There is an entrance fee payable according to age.

For women there is the Church Provident Society established in 1878. The number of members is 356 and the funds amount to £580. There is no fixed allowance for sick relief, but while the capital remains at £300 grants of varying amounts are made.

The burial allowance is £4 and £3 for members of over or under twelve months standing. Provision is made for medical attendance and medicines.

For children there is the Children's Benefit Society which gives sick relief, and transfer to one of the Societies mentioned above when the age for joining them is reached. The membership is 265 and the amount of invested funds is £130.

CHAPTER X.

Communications and Transport.

There is regular communication once a month with England and South Africa by the Union Castle Intermediate Steamers. In addition there called at the Island during 1931 four of His Majesty's Ships, three American steamers running between New York and Cape Town, and one German sailing ship.

There are 60 miles of road maintained by the Public Works Department.

In July, 1930, the Colonial Development Fund gave a free grant of £6,350 for the improvement of the roads in the Island, and very satisfactory progress has been made in the re-surfacing of the roads. There were twenty-three private cars and nine lorries registered at the end of the year.

A loan of £1,000 was also made by the Colonial Development Committee for the reconditioning and extension of the telephone system. It was decided, however, to make use of only half this loan. A satisfactory service is now provided for the Island.

There is no wireless station in St. Helena but there is a cable station with communication to all parts of the world. There are a few private wireless reception sets from which good results appear to be obtained.

There is regular postal communication each month between the Colony and England and South Africa. Mails are also made up as other occasions present themselves.

CHAPTER XI.

Banking, Currency, Weights and Measures.

The Government Savings Bank is the only banking institution in the Colony.

The total number of depositors on the 31st December, 1931, was 228, as compared with 238 on the same date in 1930. The total deposits during the year amounted to £6,252, an increase of £2,822 over the total of the previous year.

The amount due to depositors at the end of the year was £18,770, as against £17,135 on 31st December, 1930.

Stock to the value of £8,960 is held by the Government on behalf of the depositors.

By the St. Helena Coinage Order, 1925, all coins which under the Coinage Acts of 1870 and 1891 are legal tender in the United Kingdom, and all silver coins which under the Coinage Act, 1922, are legal tender in the Union of South Africa are legal tender in the Island of St. Helena.

By the Weights and Measures Ordinance, 1905, the weights and measures for the time being lawfully in use in the United Kingdom and no others are to be used in St. Helena.

CHAPTER XII.

Public Works.

Plantation House.—The reconstruction of Plantation House was completed at the beginning of the year, and after nearly three years' absence was occupied by the Governor in February.

Owing to the depredations of white ants, the house had to be abandoned and stripped to the bare walls. The roof, ceilings, floors, were all dangerous and had to be removed. During these operations twenty-four nests of white ants were discovered in the house.

The slate roof was replaced by a roof of Robertson's Protected Metal, and steel framing was substituted for timber framing. In the place of plaster, embossed steel was used for ceilings. Ant-resisting timber was employed for the floors and for the woodwork generally, American cypress and teak being imported for the purpose. A Ransome Woodworking Machine, driven by a 6 b.h.p. Ruston and Hornsby Engine, was of great assistance in preparing the timber.

Electric lighting was installed. The plant consists of a 6 b.h.p. Petter Engine, directly coupled to a 3 Kilowatt Dynamo of 100 to 140 volts.

A hot water installation supplies the bathrooms and two radiators in the drying room.

The reconstruction has been carried out by the local staff of the Public Works Department and is a very creditable achievement on the part of St. Helena craftsmen and workmen. It has trained a staff capable of undertaking any building operations reasonably likely to be needed in the future. It has kept skilled men in good employment during a period of depression. It has shewn that good work can be done in St. Helena and by St. Helenians, and the example should encourage a spirit of confidence and optimism in place of the attitude of negation usually manifested towards suggestions for new enterprises in this Colony.

Civil Hospital.—Extensive repairs to the Hospital were carried out during the year.

Steel ceilings were substituted for plaster ceilings. Most of the floors, staircases, and window frames were renewed in teak or cypress; the guttering and down piping were replaced; the interior and exterior received two coats of paint or distemper; the whole of the wiring for the electric light was renewed, and a steel conduit system installed.

The Castle and Printers Shop.—The roof of the Castle and Printers Shop was found to be in a dangerous condition and had to be replaced with ant-resisting timber and corrugated iron.

The Castle interior required a good deal of attention. The joisting, partitions, floors, and window frames had to be renewed in ant-resisting wood. In fact white ants had destroyed almost all the woodwork throughout this portion of the building. The quarters were divided into two large-sized bedrooms, a dressing room and bathroom.

In the caretaker's quarters the ceilings which were of canvas were renewed with flat steel sheets.

The reconstruction of Plantation House, the repairs to the Hospital, and to the Castle and the Printers Shop comprise the " Programme of Repairs to Public Buildings " for which the sum of approximately £9,484 was sanctioned. The work started on 10th May, 1928, and was practically completed at the end of the year with a saving on the estimate of £491. In addition there was a salvage of material, e.g., old lead, and slates, to the value of £223.

Water-Supply for St. Paul's District.—The sum of £295 was sanctioned for the improvement of the water-supply in St. Paul's District. By arrangement with Solomon and Company and W. A. Thorpe and Sons water is taken from " Hardings " and " Round Tower " Springs to a tank of 16,000 gallons storage capacity. The new supply serves existing houses in the district, and will also be available for cottages and smallholdings which it is hoped will be established in the future. The scheme is a successful one and as funds become available can be repeated in other parts of the Island.

With the aid of the assistance from the Colonial Development fund referred to in Chapter X work was also carried out by the Public Works Department on the road and telephone systems of the Island.

Current repairs and minor works and maintenance services were carried out during the year at an expenditure of £2,715, of which £888 was for the Admiralty and was on repayment.

CHAPTER XIII.

Justice and Police.

Subject to all local Ordinances and Orders in force, the law of the Colony is so much of the law of England for the time being as is suitable and appropriate as far as local circumstances permit.

By Royal Order in Council of the 13th February, 1839, the Supreme Court of St. Helena was established. The Governor acts as Chief Justice and is assisted by Assessors, who may be Members of Council or Justices of the Peace. By Ordinance 4 of 1927 the Court is empowered to hold Civil and Criminal Sessions at Ascension.

There were two criminal and three civil cases before the Supreme Court during the year under review.

Police Court cases are dealt with by the Police Magistrate or by Justices of the Peace.

The number of cases reported to the Police was 137. In 54 cases action was taken in the Police Court resulting in 20 convictions. Of these convictions seven were for offences against Ordinances relating to the social economy of the Island, four for offences against the person, four were for offences against property, and the others were for minor offences.

The Police force consists in St. Helena of a sergeant and five constables and in Ascension of two constables.

There is a small Debts Court established by Ordinance No. 2 of 1905. Its jurisdiction is over all requests for the recovery of sums not exceeding £25. The Judge of this Court is usually the Police Magistrate. There were no cases brought before this Court during the year.

Gaol.—The number of persons committed to prison during the year was eight, and five were placed on remand. The number in custody on 31st December, 1930, was 4.

CHAPTER XIV.

Legislation.

Three Ordinances were passed during the year. One raised the duty on spirits, and the other two were Appropriation Ordinances.

Five Orders in Council were made. Two were under the Motor Car Ordinance, 1928, one providing for the closing temporarily of a road and the other for quarterly licences. Two Orders were under the Dangerous Drugs Ordinance providing for additions to the list of drugs the traffic in which is controlled. One Order made new regulations with regard to the Storage of Mineral Oil.

Two Proclamations were issued. The first was the usual Proclamation fixing the season for shooting game. Rabbits during the season are regarded as game in addition to pheasants and partridges.

The other Proclamation appointed the night of April the 26th as census night.

There is no factory legislation, nor legislation for compensation for accidents. Nor is there legislative provision for old age or sickness. In the case of sickness, as explained under Chapter IX provision is made by the various Friendly Societies.

CHAPTER XV.

Public Finance and Taxation.

The revenue for the year amounted to £12,480, showing a deficit of £4,088 as compared with the estimate. This deficit is accounted for by a shortfall amounting to £4,000 in the estimate of Royalties from the Development Company at Ascension. The Company has temporarily ceased operations in the Dependency and is concentrating on research in England.

In addition to the revenue, the Colony received a grant-in-aid of £7,000, and grants from the Development Committee of £5,650 for Roads (£600 of this grant, however, is for the first quarter's expenditure of 1932) £640 to improve the telephone system, and £50 for the investigation of the geological records of St. Helena.

The funds available, therefore, during the year amounted to £25,220.

The expenditure for the year amounted to £23,819. Included in this total is the sum of £171 being the cost of furniture purchased two years ago for renting to officials and now brought on charge. Excluding this charge there was a surplus amounting to £1,572 of funds available for the year as against expenditure.

The principal items of revenue were :—

	£
Customs	4,622
Taxes and Licences	741
Fines, Fees, etc.	1,208
Post Office	846
Agriculture, etc.	108
Rent of Government land	916
Investments	433
Ascension	3,514

Under Fines and Fees is included the sum of £888 re-imbursements for work carried out on behalf of the Admiralty. In 1927-29 the Post Office Revenue averaged £3,000 per annum due to the sale to stamps to dealers. Recently this demand has greatly diminished.

The principal items of expenditure are :—

	£
Pensions	920
Governor, etc.	1,102
Secretariat	1,100
Treasury and Customs	671
Savings Bank	421
Police	592
Medical and Sanitary	2,683
Education	840
Post Office	378
Agriculture and Forestry	1,188
Miscellaneous	903
Public Works Department	1,169
Public Works Recurrent	2,715
Extraordinary	3,181
Ascension	2,012
Development Committee Grants	3,713

Under Public Works Recurrent is included work for the Admiralty.

For the past five years the revenue, grants, and expenditure have been as follows :—

	Revenue.	*Grants-in-aid, etc.*	*Funds available.*	*Expenditure.*
	£	£	£	£
1927	17,986	2,500	20,486	16,674
1928	15,549	—	15,549	19,671
1929	16,456	4,000	20,456	22,385
1930	12,570	6,000	18,570	25,819
1931	12,480	12,740	25,220	23,819

The Colony has no public debt.

As regards the assets and liabilities of the Colony there was on 31st December, 1931, a deficit of £2,982 in assets compared with liabilities as against a deficit of £4,982 at the end of 1930.

Customs and Taxes.

The chief source of Customs revenue are wharfage dues and duties.

Wharfage dues vary from 6d. on a small package to 12s. on a case measuring 60 cubic feet and upwards. The yield of these dues are approximately £1,430.

The duties on spirits are £1 9s. 6d. per gallon if over-proof and £1 7s. 6d. if under-proof; on beer the duty is 1s. per 12 reputed pints; on cigarettes it is 3s. per lb., on cigars 4s. per lb. and on other manufactured tobacco 2s. per lb. The yield from these duties is about £2,200.

There are also export duties on fibre and tow at the rate of 10s. and 5s. respectively, yielding about £400.

An *ad valorem* duty of 10 per cent. yielding £160 is placed on certain articles regarded as luxuries, such as silk, chocolates, sporting requisites, talking machines.

Shipping dues at the rate of 1s. per ton yield a revenue of about £250.

Taxes are on carriages and cars at the rate of 10s. per wheel; horses and dogs pay 10s., boats according to their capacity, up to £3 for a boat capable of carrying twenty passengers.

Licences under the Liquor (Licensing) Ordinance, 1907, are fifty pounds for a hotel or tavern licence in Jamestown, and twenty-five pounds for a licence in the country. A wholesale licence is twenty-five pounds and a temporary retail licence is ten shillings.

Water-rates vary from 2s. 6d. on a house whose rental value is under £10 to £2 when the rental value is £80 or over.

The yield from these licences and taxes is approximately £750.

There is no income tax and no excise tax, and the yield from stamp duties as prescribed under the Stamp Ordinance, 1922, is trivial.

CHAPTER XVI.

Miscellaneous.

Lands.

Sir Daniel Morris estimated the area of St. Helena to be 28,000 acres, "Of this area probably 20,000 acres or more than two-thirds are composed of barren rocky wastes or clayey slopes totally unfit in their present condition for any agricultural operations." More recent estimates give the area of agricultural and pastural lands as 10,000 acres.

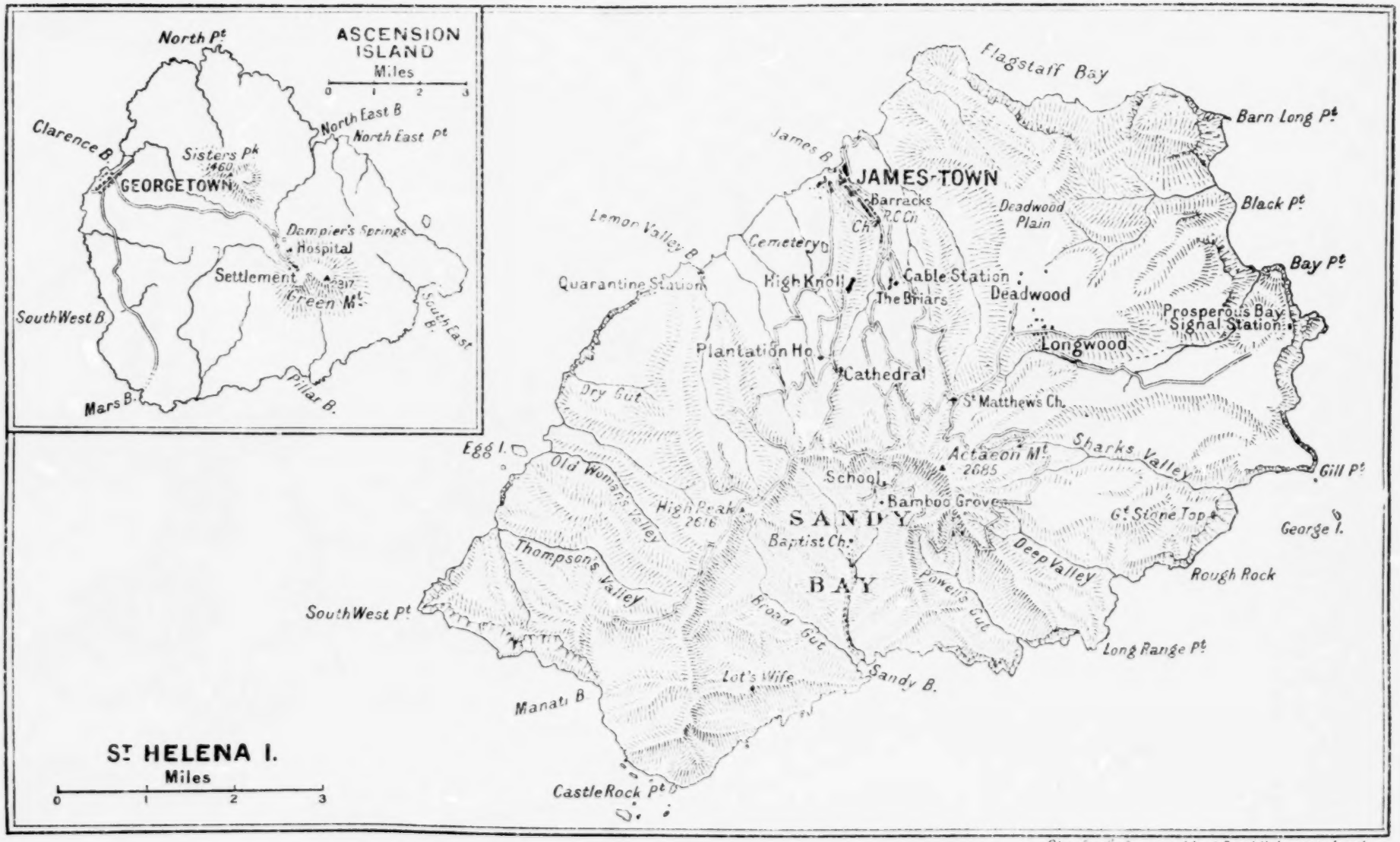
The number of properties on the Government rent roll amount to about 420, representing approximately £1,000 in rents.

It is difficult owing to the paucity of transactions to arrive at the market value of land.

The only legislation dealing with land is "The Conveyancing and Registration Ordinance, 1893," which simplifies conveyancing and provides for registration.

General.

During the year an officer from the Colonial Audit Department visited the Colony to report on the system of accounting.



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ANNUAL REPORT ON THE SOCIAL AND ECONOMIC PROGRESS OF THE PEOPLE OF ST. HELENA FOR 1932

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I.—GEOGRAPHY, CLIMATE, AND HISTORY.

The Colony of St. Helena consists of the Island of St. Helena with the Island of Ascension as a Dependency.

St. Helena.

St. Helena, 47 square miles in area, the size of Jersey, lies in latitude 15°55′ South and longitude 5°42′ West. It is about 950 miles due south of the Equator, 4,000 miles from England, and 1,700 miles from Cape Town. The voyage from England occupies about a fortnight, and from Cape Town five days.

The aspect of St. Helena from the sea is not attractive. The Island rises abruptly in steep cliffs, 400 to 2,000 feet in height, pierced by deep narrow valleys. Behind its sombre appearance,

however, the ground advances through pleasant scenery to a serrated ridge stretched across the middle of the Island. There are three peaks with altitudes of approximately 2,700 feet on this ridge from which magnificent views are obtainable.

Situated in the midst of the South-East Trades, far from other lands, and surrounded by the cool waters of the South Atlantic current, St. Helena possesses a mild and equable climate.

ASCENSION.

Ascension Island lies in latitude 7°53′ South and longitude 14°18′ West, about 700 miles north-west of St. Helena. It has an area of 34 square miles.

From the sea Ascension appears bleak and desolate. Green Mountain, however, 2,800 feet high, relieves with its vegetation the barren and depressing effect of the larger part of the Island and affords pasture for about 600 sheep and cattle.

At the present time the Island is an important Cable Station, and its only inhabitants are English and St. Helena employees of the Cable Company.

The St. Helena Development Company, which has interests in the phosphate and mineral deposits on the Island, has temporarily suspended local operations.

A note on the climate of St. Helena and Ascension will be found in the Report for 1929—Colonial Report, No. 1,475. The same Report also contains a note on the history of the Islands.

II.—GOVERNMENT.

By an Act of William IV, dated the 28th of August, 1833, the Island of St. Helena, as from the 22nd of April, 1834, was transferred from the East India Company and became vested in the Crown.

Provision for the authority and appointment of Governor, for the establishment of a Council to assist the Governor, and for the making and promulgation of laws, was made by a Royal Order in Council dated the 12th day of October, 1835. This Order was revoked by an Order dated the 27th of July, 1863, and fresh provision was made.

The Executive Council as it exists at present was established by "The St. Helena Order in Council, 1929," revoking previous Orders. By Instructions issued on the 5th of June, 1929, it is provided that the Council shall consist of the Senior Military Officer in Command of regular troops in the Island and of the person holding the substantive appointment of Government Secretary of the Island, as *ex officio* members, and of such other per-

sons as may from time to time be appointed. Provision was also included for the appointment of Extraordinary members on special occasions.

At the present time there are three Unofficial members of Council.

Subject to the reservation of power for legislation by Parliament and by the Privy Council the Order of 1863 provides for the making of laws by the Governor. It is also laid down under "The Interpretation and General Law Ordinance, 1895," that "a copy of the draft of every Ordinance shall be affixed to a board in front of the Court House for the inspection of the Public for one month before the passing thereof; . . . provided always that in any case in which the Governor-in-Council thinks it urgently necessary to dispense with such public notification . . . he may do so."

Ascension.

By Letters Patent dated the 12th of September, 1922, Ascension became a Dependency of St. Helena and it was provided that the Governor and Executive Council of St. Helena should have the same powers in relation to Ascension as they possess in relation to St. Helena. The Manager of the Eastern Telegraph Company is appointed as Resident Magistrate and is a member of the Executive Council of St. Helena.

III.—POPULATION.

At the time of its discovery in 1502 St. Helena was uninhabited, and so it remained until the East India Company, a century and a-half later, assumed possession and introduced settlers from England.

As a depot for ships trading from the Far East, the Island attracted settlers of Asiatic origin; and for many years St. Helena was also a depot for African slaves who had been liberated after the capture of the slave traders by His Majesty's ships. The Island population to-day is largely of mixed origin.

The English environment which was created by the English colonists was firmly established, and the language of the Island has always been English.

The population as ascertained by the census taken in the year 1931 is classified as under:—

	Males.	*Females.*	*Total.*
Islanders	1,825	2,026	3,851
Other British Residents	77	65	142
Other Nationals	2	—	2
	1,904	2,091	3,995

The distribution of the population is shown in the following table :—

District.	*Males.*	*Females.*	*Total.*
Jamestown, including the Briars and Rupert's Valley	706	823	1,529
Half Tree Hollow and Ladder Hill (including Garrison)	227	263	490
St. Pauls	157	173	330
High Point, Farm Lodge, Rosemary and Cleughs Plain	140	155	295
Blue Hill	140	124	264
Sandy Bay...	143	146	289
Longwood and Hutt's Gate	391	407	798
	1,904	2,091	3,995

Births and Deaths 1932.		*Rate per* 1,000.
Births	152	36.65
Deaths	58	13.99
Infant mortality per 1,000 births ...		131.57

The population of Ascension as ascertained by the census taken in the year 1931 is classified as under :—

St. Helenians	152
Other British residents	36
	188

IV.—HEALTH.

The medical establishment during the year consisted of a Colonial Surgeon, a Surgeon Dentist, and at the hospital one English nurse and three St. Helena women in training as probationers.

The Board of Health, composed of three members elected by rate-payers and a Chairman and three members nominated by the Governor, met regularly during the year. Questions relating to the measles epidemic, the isolation of a leper, the quarantine station, the town water-supply, and the medical inspection of schools were considered by the Board.

During the epidemic of measles in the year 1932 there were approximately 2,200 cases or nearly 60 per cent. of the population; but there were no deaths. The epidemic imposed a heavy task on the Health Authorities and brought much distress to the Island. The institution of quarantine measures caused to be thrown out of employment for a time the casual labourers who earn their living by attending to the needs of shipping. The general health of the Island was otherwise good during the year.

The Civil Hospital maintained by the Government is an institution of 14 beds. The attendance of out-patients during the year was 5,471 and there were 152 admissions involving 30 major and 48 minor operations.

Two dressing stations are established at convenient centres in the country districts where 2,807 and 960 cases were treated respectively. Vaccination, as a precautionary measure, is carried out under the Ordinance although there have been no cases of smallpox.

The Poor House, under the management of a Poor Relief Board of five members elected by rate-payers and meeting every fortnight, was visited weekly by the Colonial Surgeon. The health of inmates, who number 26, was good.

A Lunatic Asylum is maintained under the direction and management of the Poor Relief Board, subject to the general control of the Governor. The number of inmates at the end of the year was five. It is visited weekly by the Colonial Surgeon. The health of the inmates during the year was good.

V.—HOUSING.

There have been no developments in this direction during the year, the various projects for building cottages and installing smallholders having had to be postponed until an improvement in the general financial situation.

The schemes for the restoration of some of the dilapidated Government buildings chiefly in Jamestown, and for a new Poor House and Asylum at a cost of £8,500 have been prepared, but owing to lack of funds cannot be proceeded with.

The general situation as regards housing in the Island is unsatisfactory. There is a great shortage of houses in a reasonable state of repair suitable for intending residents. The Government has the utmost difficulty in finding houses for its officials as all its properties, available as residences, require extensive repairs and in part rebuilding.

Over-crowding amongst the working and agricultural classes is serious and is reflected in the high rates for infant mortality with a correspondingly high birth-rate. There is much slum property in Jamestown and in the country a lack of means and land prevents the agricultural classes from building cottages for themselves and working the land. Some doubts have been expressed as to whether the townsmen have the necessary physical development to withstand the more invigorating climate and harder life of the country highlands.

The only legislation dealing with over-crowding is a provision in " The Public Health Ordinance, 1909," which gives the Board

of Health or any Justice of the Peace power to decide the number of persons who may live in any house or room, the minimum space allowed being three hundred cubic feet for each adult.

VI.—PRODUCTION.

The prosperity of St. Helena is solely dependent on cultivation of the land. Mr. Mason, an agricultural expert from South Africa, who visited the Island in 1921, came to the conclusion that St. Helena " was a country for the smallholder."

Fibre Production.—The only industry of importance at the present time is the cultivation of *Phormium tenax* (New Zealand flax) and the manufacture of fibre and tow from its leaves.

Flax appears in the agricultural returns for 1873, when 100 acres were said to be given over to its cultivation. In the following year machinery was set up for the extraction of fibre from aloe and from *Phormium tenax*, and from 1875 to 1881 there were exports of fibre from both plants, the highest returns being 100 tons and 83 tons in 1879 and 1880 respectively. Prices then fell, and after 1881 the export ceased.

In June, 1906, a deputation interviewed the Secretary of State for the Colonies and urged the establishment of a Government flax mill in the Island. With the assistance of a grant-in-aid, flax planting was encouraged, an expert was obtained from New Zealand, and the Government Mill was opened in 1907. In 1913 Solomon and Company opened their first mill, followed three years later by Deason Brothers, and in 1923 W. A. Thorpe & Sons also began milling operations. The Government Mill is now leased to Solomon and Company, and under the terms of their lease they are required to accept leaves from the smallholders. At the present price obtaining for fibrous products the Government Mill is the only market the smallholders have for their leaves.

The cultivable, pasture, and forest areas of land approximate 8,600 acres of which 3,250 are now cultivated with flax.

Early in 1932 owing to the fall in price of hemp to £15 all the nine mills on the Island closed down thus causing serious unemployment and privation throughout the Island. As a means for relieving unemployment a subsidy of £3 15s. per ton of fibre produced was approved and the mills were reopened in November.

Particulars of the production, exports, and value of fibre and tow are appended :—

1932.	*Produced. Tons.*	*Exported. Tons.*	*Average price. London.*	
			£ s. d.	
Fibre	291	234	14 0 0	per ton.
Tow	168	144	8 15 0	,,

A factory for the manufacture of rope and twine from the local fibre has been operated for some years by Captain Mainwaring.

Horticulture.—Throughout the year the Union Castle Company placed small but regular orders for the supply to their ships calling at St. Helena of vegetables, fruit, and eggs. The value of the commodities supplied was £316.

Farming.—Farming is carried on to a limited extent to supply local needs in meat, vegetables, and dairy produce, and also to supply His Majesty's ships when visiting St. Helena; and bullocks and vegetables are supplied regularly to Ascension.

Lace Making.—This industry was started in St. Helena in 1897 by Mrs. Jackson, a resident in the Island. She had been impressed with its possibility as an industry for women and girls from the success which had attended a similar enterprise in Madagascar. In 1907 the Imperial Treasury gave a grant to assist and develop the industry and an Association was formed under the presidency of the Bishop with a committee of ladies to assist in the management. The Association dissolved the following year and the industry passed into Government control. A Government lace school was established; but in 1916 the manageress was compelled on account of ill-health to resign her appointment and the school was then closed and has not since been re-opened. Messrs. Solomon and Company have opened a depot in Jamestown where the lace can now be purchased, but the St. Helena lace finds difficulty in competing with machine-made lace and with work of cheaper quality. The efforts to establish this industry have, however, resulted in many Island homes being able to make a small monthly income.

Ascension.

The only export from Ascension at the present time is that of turtles. The number of turtles captured during 1932 was 113 of which 60 were exported during the year. In former years the export of turtles was on a considerable scale, 750 being exported in 1834, 600 in 1850 and 650 in 1853.

At Green Mountain the Eastern Telegraph Company possess a farm for the maintenance of imported animals and gardens for the cultivation of vegetables. At the end of the year the stock consisted of 27 cattle, 399 sheep, and some pigs.

VII.—COMMERCE.

The aggregate value of external trade, exclusive of bullion and specie, for the year amounted to £38,360 as compared with £59,182 for the previous year. Imports showed a decrease of £11,654 and exports a decrease of £9,168.

The following table shows under the principal heads the respective values for the past five years:—

Imports.	*1928.*	*1929.*	*1930.*	*1931.*	*1932.*
	£	£	£	£	£
Food, drink, and tobacco ...	29,694	26,596	24,095	23,347	17,122
Raw materials and articles mainly unmanufactured	2,056	2,078	1,088	608	149
Articles wholly or mainly manufactured	16,136	17,960	18,754	19,405	14,167
Miscellaneous and unclassified ...	1,144	771	474	523	791
	49,030	47,405	44,411	43,883	32,229
Bullion and specie ...	—	—	—	—	4,000
Total Imports	49,030	47,405	44,411	43,883	36,229

Exports.	*1928.*	*1929.*	*1930.*	*1931.*	*1932.*
	£	£	£	£	£
New Zealand fibre	22,515	26,759	11,890	10,975	3,265
,, tow	6,933	9,191	4,915	3,693	1,353
,, rope and twine ...	1,246	2,006	2,243	301	925
Other articles	573	615	730	330	588
	31,267	38,571	19,778	15,299	6,131
Bullion and specie	—	—	67	828	749
Total exports	31,267	38,571	19,845	16,127	6,880

Imports.

The decrease in the value of imports, while partly due to reduction in prices of commodities, may also be attributed to the fall in the quantity and value of the principal exports of the Colony, namely fibre and tow, and the consequent reduction in the purchasing power of the people.

The following table shows the value of the principal articles imported during the years 1931 and 1932 together with the decreases or increases:—

	1931.	*1932.*	*Decrease — Increase +*
	£	£	£
Provisions	19,835	14,401	— 5,434
Drapery	6,417	3,355	— 3,062
Motor-cars and lorries	1,195	3,193	+ 1,998
Petrol and oil	963	2,500	+ 1,537
Hardware	1,079	1,115	+ 36
Beer, wines, and spirits	1,546	1,413	— 133
Tobacco and cigarettes	920	1,325	+ 405

The undermentioned quantities may also be recorded:—

	1931.	*1932.*	*Decrease — Increase +*
Beer, wines, and spirits ...	5,484 gals.	5,278 gals.	— 206 gals.
Tobacco and cigarettes ...	5,623 lb.	5,909 lb.	+ 286 lb.

The countries of origin were as follows :—

	1928.	*1929.*	*1930.*	*1931.*	*1932.*
	£	£	£	£	£
United Kingdom	39,735	34,848	36,160	35,920	28,732
South Africa	7,595	8,051	5,101	5,218	3,136
United States of America ...	—	3,112	1,543	900	3,550
Other Foreign Countries	1,700	1,394	1,607	1,845	811

Importations from South Africa consisted mainly of food, grain, wine, and tobacco while those from the United States of America comprised petrol, paraffin oil, and motor-cars. Those from other foreign countries were food-stuffs, drink, and hardware.

Exports.

The decrease in the value of exports which call for comment, namely fibre and tow, is due to the fall in market prices of these commodities and the consequent suspension of milling operations and reduction of the quantity shipped. Statistics of these quantities during the past five years are shown in the following table :—

	1928.	*1929.*	*1930.*	*1931.*	*1932.*
	Tons.	*Tons.*	*Tons.*	*Tons.*	*Tons.*
Fibre	770	889	540	644	234
Tow...	380	505	342	296	144
Rope and twine	26	51	52	23	37

Rope and twine are shipped to England and South Africa while fibre and tow are exported to England and occasionally to South Africa.

The distribution of the total exports of the Colony during the past five years has been as follows :—

	1928.	*1929.*	*1930.*	*1931.*	*1932.*
	£	£	£	£	£
United Kingdom	29,321	36,175	18,699	15,569	5,774
South Africa	1,946	2,396	1,146	558	1,106

VIII.—WAGES AND COST OF LIVING.

Wages for skilled and semi-skilled workmen vary from 3s. to 5s. per day.

The Government wage for adult unskilled labour is 2s. 3d. per day, amounting to 13s. 6d. for a week of forty-five hours, the half-day on Saturday counting as a full day.

In the flax mills the average daily rate for men is 1s. 9d. for an eight or nine hour day. The wages paid to women are 1s. per day.

In the rope works the average wage for men is 15s. per week, and for women 10s.

The number of persons employed in the flax mills is two hundred and thirty-five and in the rope works twelve.

In domestic service the monthly wage with board and lodging for housemaids varies from 10s. to £2, for cooks from 30s. to £4 5s., and for male servants from 30s. to £4 15s.

The cost of living is moderate. Meat, including fowls, is obtainable at 1s. per lb.; fish is cheap; eggs vary, according to season, from 1s. 6d. to 2s. per dozen; and fresh butter is 3s. per lb. while imported butter is 2s. 8d. per lb., fresh milk and fresh vegetables are usually obtainable at reasonable prices; and rice, which with fish forms the staple diet of the St. Helenian, is 2d. per lb.

From time to time accommodation is available for visitors, and St. Helena has attractions as a place of residence for those who seek a genial climate and quietude. It is estimated that two people could live comfortably and in full enjoyment of all the Island has to offer on £450 to £500 a year. With a more limited range of activity two people could live on considerably less.

IX.—EDUCATION AND WELFARE INSTITUTIONS.

Education in the Colony is limited to primary education. There are three Government schools, one for boys and one for girls in Jamestown, and a mixed school in the country. Three schools are maintained by the Hussey Charity, established in 1865 from the bequest of Rebecca Hussey. Another school is maintained by the St. Helena Benevolent Society founded in 1814, and another is supported out of St. Helena Diocesan Fund which is itself dependent upon voluntary contributions.

A Government grant of £100 is given to the Hussey Charity schools, of £20 to the Benevolent Society School, and of £15 to the Diocesan Fund School. The Government expenditure on education during the year amounted to £848.

The number of children attending the Government schools is 313, and the number at the other schools is 424.

The education is sound in its elementary character and the schools are cheerful and the children bright. The handwriting generally is good, and the girls' needlework is often excellent.

As regards technical education for boys there are some opportunities for training apprentices in the Public Works and Horticultural Departments. St. Helena girls when trained make good domestic servants, and opportunities for their employment and for the employment of youths offer in Ascension, South Africa, and occasionally in England.

A Workmen's Compensation Ordinance is under consideration, but there is no Government insurance against old age, unemployment, or sickness. Most of the Islanders however are members of Friendly Societies which were formed for affording relief and maintenance in sickness and advanced age.

There is a Poor Relief Board, established under the Poor Relief Ordinance, 1914 Its members are elected annually by the ratepayers. The annual revenue of the Board is about £900 to £1,000, derived from a 5d. rate, and a Government contribution of £82.

The average daily number of inmates in the Poor House was 31 during the year.

There are four Friendly Societies for men with a recorded membership of 1,517, but many persons are members of more than one society. The male population of the Island over fourteen years of age may be estimated at approximately 1,218.

A note on the Friendly Societies will be found in the Annual Report for 1931.

X.—COMMUNICATIONS AND TRANSPORT.

There is regular communication once a month with England and South Africa by the Union Castle Intermediate steamers. In addition an American steamer running between New York and Cape Town called on three occasions.

Three of His Majesty's ships visited St. Helena during the year, and visits were made by one Portuguese warship and three naval training ships—1 Argentine, 1 Spanish, and 1 German.

A comparison with the shipping before the opening of the Suez Canal is not without interest.

Vessels touching at the Port of Jamestown.

1862.	*1932.*
249	43

There are 60 miles of road maintained by the Public Works Department, and 51 motor lorries and cars are registered and licensed.

There is no wireless station in St. Helena but there is a cable station with communication to all parts of the world.

The Empire Short-wave Broadcasting Service is received well in the Island.

There is regular postal communication each month between the Colony and England and South Africa. Mails are also made up as other occasions present themselves.

XI.—BANKING, CURRENCY, WEIGHTS AND MEASURES.

The Government Savings Bank is the only banking institution in the Colony.

The aggregate balance of depositors' accounts during the last five years were as follows :—

Year.	*Balance of deposits at 31st December.*
	£
1928	16,098
1929	17,369
1930	17,135
1931	18,770
1932	20,620

The increase in 1932 is attributable to the two largest individual accounts which are of comparatively recent date.

The total number of depositors on 31st December, 1932, was 216, as compared with 228 on the same date in 1931.

The invested portion of the Savings Bank deposits at the end of the year is represented by Stock of the mean market value of £18,083.

By the St. Helena Coinage Order, 1925, all coins which under the Coinage Acts of 1870 and 1891 are legal tender in the United Kingdom, and all silver coins which under the Coinage Act, 1922, are legal tender in the Union of South Africa are legal tender in the Island of St. Helena.

By the Weights and Measures Ordinance, 1905, the weights and measures for the time being lawfully in use in the United Kingdom and no others are to be used in St. Helena.

XII.—PUBLIC WORKS.

The expenditure on recurrent works during the year was as under :—

	£
Current repairs	325
Maintenance of roads	800
Maintenance of water system	449

and in addition the sum of £750 was expended on relief works for the unemployed. These works took the form of stone crushing and road repair, and the expenditure includes an amount of £158 representing the cost of clearing the Jamestown Valley water-course which had become choked with boulders and rocks washed down during an exceptional rain storm in the month of May, 1932.

The expenditure on maintenance of the water system includes £110 being the cost of replacing the water piping which was washed away, and augmenting the supply for Jamestown from another spring.

During the year the Public Works Department undertook minor works on behalf of the Admiralty on which the sum of £603 was expended.

No major works were undertaken during the year.

XIII.—JUSTICE, POLICE, AND PRISONS.

Subject to all local Ordinances and Orders in force, the law of the Colony is so much of the law of England for the time being as is suitable and appropriate as far as local circumstances permit.

By Royal Order in Council of 13th February, 1839, the Supreme Court of St. Helena was established. The Governor acts as Chief Justice and may be assisted by Assessors, who must be Members of Council or Justices of the Peace. By Ordinance 4 of 1927 the Court is empowered to hold Civil and Criminal Sessions at Ascension.

There were one criminal and six civil cases before the Supreme Court during the year under review.

Police Court cases are dealt with by the Police Magistrate or by Justices of the Peace.

The number of cases reported to the Police was 127. In 54 cases action was taken in the Police Court resulting in 39 convictions. Of these convictions four were for offences against the person, eight for offences against property, and the others were for minor offences against Ordinances in force.

The Police Force consists in St. Helena of a sergeant and five constables and in Ascension of two constables.

There is a Small Debts Court established by Ordinance No. 2 of 1905. Its jurisdiction is over all requests for the recovery of sums not exceeding £25. The Judge of this Court is usually the Police Magistrate. There were 22 cases brought before this Court during the year, as compared with none in 1931.

Gaol.—The number of persons committed to prison during the year was 19, and six were placed on remand; the daily average being 2.5 as compared with 2.01 in 1931.

XIV.—LEGISLATION.

Fifteen Ordinances were passed during the year:—

No. 1.—Co-operative Credit Societies.

No. 2.—Customs (Consolidation) Amendment.

No. 3.—Tax Amendment Ordinance.

No. 4.—Customs (Consolidation) Further Amendment.

No. 5.—Workmen's Compensation.

No. 6.—Registration of United Kingdom Patents Amendment Ordinance.

No. 7.—United Kingdom Designs (Protection) Amendment Ordinance.

No. 8.—Further Supplementary Expenditure for the year 1930.

No. 9.—Appropriation Ordinance, 1932.

No. 10.—Public Health (Amendment) Ordinance.

No. 11.—Minimum Wages Ordinance.

No. 12.—Customs (Consolidation) Third Amendment Ordinance.

No. 13.—Commissions of Enquiry (Amendment) Ordinance.

No. 14.—Supplementary Expenditure for the year 1931.

No. 15.—Customs (Consolidation) Fourth Amendment Ordinance.

XV.—PUBLIC FINANCE AND TAXATION.

Revenue and Expenditure.

The following table shows the revenue and expenditure of the Colony for the past five years :—

Year.	*Revenue.*	*Grants by Colonial Development Fund.*	*Grants-in-aid by His Majesty's Treasury.*	*Total Revenue.*	*Expenditure.*
	£	£	£	£	£
1928 ...	15,549	—	—	15,549	19,671
1929 ...	16,456	—	4,000	20,456	22,385
1930 ...	12,570	—	6,000	18,570	25,820
1931 ...	11,940	6,340	7,000	25,820	27,109
1932 ...	13,817	560	13,500	27,877	18,906

The revenue for the year 1932 as compared with the preceding year is summarized hereunder :—

	1931.	1932.
	£	£
Customs	4,622	4,248
Licences, taxes, etc.	742	642
Fees of office, reimbursements, etc. ...	1,316	1,025
Rents	916	1,001
Interest	434	431
Post Office	846	769
Miscellaneous	77	2,936
Sale of land	12	17
Ascension	3,515	2,748
	12,480	13,817
Colonial Development Fund	6,340	560
Grants-in-aid	7,000	13,500
	25,820	27,877

The expenditure for the year as compared with the preceding year is as under :—

	1931.	1932.
	£	£
Pensions and Gratuities	920	1,185
Governor and Legal	1,122	1,186
Secretariat	1,100	1,052
Treasury, Customs and Port	762	552
Savings Bank	421	397
Police and Gaol	710	712
Medical	2,683	2,344
Education	840	848
Post Office	378	463
Agriculture and Forestry	1,188	1,008
Public Works Department and Recurrent	3,884	3,748
Miscellaneous	4,193	674
Ascension	2,012	2,025
	20,213	16,194
Works Extraordinary	3,182	1,412
Reconstruction of Roads, etc., from Colonial Development Fund ...	3,714	1,300
	27,109	18,906

The revenue under the head Customs for the year 1932 shews a falling off of £374 in comparison with the revenue for the preceding year. The decrease would have been substantially greater but for the fact that wharfage dues were increased in the month of April by 50 per cent. under Ordinance No. 4 of 1932, and import duties were increased in December by Ordinance No. 15 of 1932.

The fall in the Customs duties was due to the decreased spending power of the Islanders. The services of labourers from St. Helena engaged by the St. Helena Colony Development Company at Ascension had been dispensed with by September, 1931, and the reconstruction of roads from grants from the Colonial Development Fund had been completed early in the year 1932. Unemployment was further and seriously accentuated when the flax millers, in consequence of the fall in the market price of hemp, suspended milling operations in April, 1932. The situation was alleviated by the expenditure of £750 on relief works and by the recommencement of flax cutting and milling operations in November, 1932, on payment of a Government subsidy of £3 15s. per ton of hemp produced, subject to reduction in the event of a rise in the market price in London.

The revenue for the year 1932 includes under the head Miscellaneous an amount of £2,675 in respect of the appreciation of Savings Bank and other investments held by Government. In the

preceding year the sum of £3,290 was charged to expenditure under the head Miscellaneous in respect of the depreciation of investments.

A statement of the Assets and Liabilities is appended :—

Assets.

	£ s. d.	£ s. d.
Cash—		
Local Treasury ...	1,415 1 4	
At Crown Agents ...	315 13 11	
Remittances in transit to Crown Agents ...	405 12 10	
		2,136 8 1
Advances—		
Postmaster	729 16 11	
Telephone Fund ...	142 5 3	
Other Advances ...	1,413 13 5	
		2,285 15 7
Investments—		
Savings Bank	18,083 8 1	
Alexander Bequest ...	1,114 1 11	
Red Cross Society ...	124 6 8	
Botley's Fund	6 17 1	
		19,328 13 9
Flax Mill and Machinery		807 10 9
Unallocated Stores ...		1,145 4 8
		£25,703 12 10

Liabilities.

	£ s. d.	£ s. d.
Deposits—		
Savings Bank	20,620 0 6	
Postmaster	494 1 7	
Alexander Bequest ...	1,114 1 11	
Red Cross Society ...	124 6 8	
Botley's Fund	6 17 1	
Alexander Bequest (Interest a/c)	13 6 10	
Telephone Fund ...	90 1 11	
Other Deposits ...	88 12 5	
		22,551 8 11
Bills of Exchange ...		452 19 5
Excess of Assets over Liabilities (Surplus) ...		2,699 4 6
		£25,703 12 10

There is no public debt.

Taxation.

The principal sources of taxation and the yield during the year 1932 are as follows:—

	£
Customs—	
Import duties	2,339
Port and wharfage dues—	
Shipping dues	154
Wharfage dues	1,569
Licences—	
Carriages, carts and horses	74
Motor-cars and lorries	118
Boats	116
Fire-arms and game	48
Liquor	125
Rates—	
Water	76

The Customs tariff was revised by Ordinance No. 15 of 1932 with effect from 10th December. The tariff, while increasing duties on spirits, wines, beer, and tobacco and including a variety of goods not hitherto subject to import duties, excluded essential commodities such as flour, wheat, rice, margarine, milk, cotton piece-goods, drugs and dressings, timber and a variety of building materials, agricultural implements and fertilizers, etc., and imposed light duties on other essential commodities such as sugar (¼d. per lb.), tea (5 per cent.), etc. The duty on spirits is £1 8s. 6d. per proof gallon, on sparkling wines 8s. per gallon, on still wines 4s. to 5s. per gallon, on beer and ale in bottles 1s. 4d. per gallon and in wood 8d. per gallon, on cigars 7s. 6d. per lb., cigarettes 5s. per lb., manufactured tobacco 4s. per lb., and unmanufactured tobacco 1s. per lb.

The export duty of 10s. per ton on fibre and 5s. per ton on tow was abolished by Ordinance No. 15 of 1932.

Shipping dues are at the rate of 1s. per ton.

The minimum wharfage dues on a small package of 3 cubic feet and under is 6d. and a similar charge is made for a package containing 10 liquid gallons and under. The charge is increased at the rate of 1s. 6d. for every additional 20 cubic feet and at the rate of 1s. for every additional 20 gallons. The wharfage on bags or sacks varies from 6d. to 2s. each according to weight. Other rates are prescribed for articles not baled, crated, or encased and for animals.

Taxes on carriages and cars are at the rate of 10s. per wheel; on horses and dogs 10s. each, and on boats, according to their capacity, up to £3 for a boat capable of carrying twenty passengers.

Licences under the Liquor (Licensing) Ordinance, 1907, are fifty pounds for a hotel or tavern licence in Jamestown, and twenty-five pounds for a licence in the country. A wholesale licence is £25 and a temporary retail licence is 10s.

Water rates vary from 2s. 6d. on a house the rental value of which is under £10 to £2 when the rental value is £80 or over.

XVI.—MISCELLANEOUS.

Lands.

The area of St. Helena is approximately 30,000 acres. Of this area 21,400 acres are uncultivable. The area of cultivable lands is estimated at 8,600 acres.

The number of properties on the Government rent roll amounts to about 608, from which rents approximating £1,100 are derived.

It is difficult owing to the paucity of transactions to arrive at the market value of land.

The only legislation dealing with land is "The Conveyancing and Registration Ordinance, 1893," which simplifies conveyancing and provides for registration.

General.

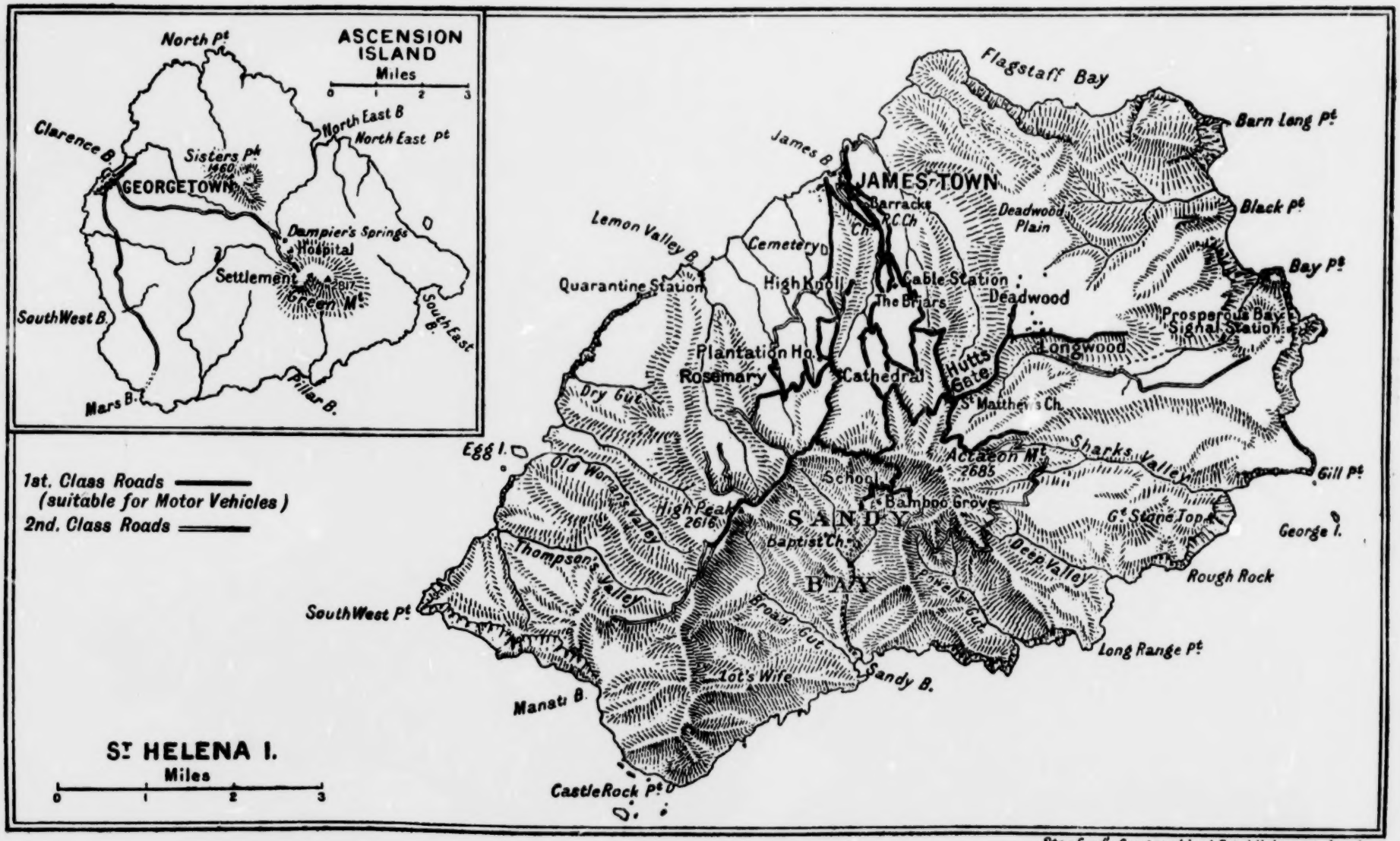
Sir Charles Harper, K.B.E., C.M.G., who had been Governor of St. Helena since 1925 left the Island on the 8th of August, and Sir Spencer Davis, C.M.G., assumed office as Governor on the 13th October. During the intervening period Major C. A. C. Lucas, O.B.E., R.M., administered the Government.

Mr. G. C. Kitching, O.B.E., arrived in the Colony and assumed office as Government Secretary on the 13th October.

APPENDIX.

BOOKS ON ST. HELENA OF GENERAL INTEREST.

Title.	*Publishers or Agents.*	*Price.*
"A History of the Island of St. Helena", 1808, by T. H. Brook.	Publishers to East India Company.	—
"St. Helena, 1875" by J. C. Mellis.	L. Reeve & Co., London.	£2 2s.
"St. Helena—the Historic Island", 1903, by E. L. Jackson.	Ward Lock & Co., Ltd., London.	—
"Napoleon in Exile", 1915, by Norwood Young (Two volumes).	Stanley Paul & Co., London.	£1 12s.
"St. Helena Who's Who", 1919, by Arnold Chaplin.	A. L. Humphreys, London.	—



Stanford's Geographical Establishment, London

(20617—28) Wt. 1709/3081 625 9/32 P. St. G. 7/8

EMPIRE MARKETING BOARD PUBLICATIONS

Note on the work of the Board and Statement of Research and other Grants approved by the Secretary of State from July, 1926, to March, 1932. Cmd. 4121. 9*d.* (10*d.*).

British Empire Hardwoods from the point of view of Turnery. 2*s.* (2*s.* 2*d.*).

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Australian and New Zealand Fruit Shipments. Report of an investigation into the deterioration in transit of Imported Australian and New Zealand Fruit, 1927–30. (E.M.B. 46.) 1*s.* (1*s.* 2*d.*).

Banana Breeding at the Imperial College of Tropical Agriculture. (E.M.B. 47.) 1*s.* (1*s.* 2*d.*).

Imperial Sugar Cane Research Conference, 1931. Report of Proceedings. 2*s.* 6*d.* (2*s.* 11*d.*).

Further Changes in the Demand for Butter, July, 1928, and July, 1931. Report of an Investigation into the Retail Marketing of Butter in Nottingham. (E.M.B. 48.) 1*s.* (1*s.* 1*d.*).

Fruit Supplies in 1931. (E.M.B. 49). 1*s.* (1*s.* 3*d.*).

The Demand for Honey. (E.M.B. 50.) 1*s.* (1*s.* 2*d.*).

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Dairy Produce Supplies in 1931. (E.M.B. 52.) 1*s.* (1*s.* 3*d.*).

Survey of Vegetable Oilseeds and Oils. Vol. I. Oil Palm Products. (E.M.B. 54.) 1*s.* (1*s.* 4*d.*).

Canned and Dried Fruit Supplies in 1931. (E.M.B. 55.) 1*s.* (1*s.* 3*d.*).

The Demand for Canned Vegetables. (E.M.B. 56.) 1*s.* (1*s.* 1*d.*).

Wool Survey. A Summary of Production and Trade in the Empire and Foreign Countries. (E.M.B. 57.) 2*s.* (2*s.* 6*d.*).

Cattle Breeding in Jamaica and Trinidad. (E.M.B. 58.) 1*s.* (1*s.* 2*d.*).

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Empire Marketing Board. May, 1932, to May, 1933. (E.M.B. 63.) 1*s.* (1*s.* 3*d.*).

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Report on the Infestation of Cured Tobacco in London by the Cacao Moth Ephestia Elutella H.B. (E.M.B. 67.) 1*s.* (1*s.* 3*d.*).

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ANNUAL REPORT ON THE SOCIAL AND ECONOMIC PROGRESS OF THE PEOPLE OF

ST. HELENA, 1933

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ANNUAL REPORT ON THE SOCIAL AND ECONOMIC PROGRESS OF THE PEOPLE OF ST. HELENA FOR 1933

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I.—GEOGRAPHY, CLIMATE, AND HISTORY.

The Colony of St. Helena consists of the Island of St. Helena with the Island of Ascension as a Dependency.

St. Helena.

St. Helena, 47 square miles in area, the size of Jersey, lies in latitude 15° 55′ South and longitude 5° 42′ West. It is about 950 miles due south of the Equator, 4,000 miles from England, and 1,700 miles from Capetown. The voyage from England occupies about a fortnight, and from Capetown five days.

The aspect of St. Helena from the sea is not attractive. The Island rises abruptly in steep cliffs, 400 to 2,000 feet in height, pierced by deep narrow valleys.

Situated in the midst of the South-East Trades, far from other lands, and surrounded by the cool waters of the South Atlantic current, St. Helena possesses a mild and equable climate.

St. Helena was discovered by the Portuguese Commander Juan de Novo Castella on St. Helena's Day, 21st May, 1502. The situation of the Island was kept secret from other nations until 1588, when it was visited by Captain Cavendish on his return from a voyage round the world. With the increase of commerce to the east the Island became a port of call for ships of various nations returning from the east. In 1633 it was formally annexed by Jacques Specz on behalf of the States General; but no attempt at colonization was made by the Dutch. On 5th May, 1659, it was annexed by Captain John Dutton who was sent out by the East India Company with an expedition for the purpose. Captain Dutton constructed the Castle, the present headquarters of the Government, where a stone inscribed by him can still be seen.

In a general Charter issued to the East India Company in 1661, the Company was confirmed in its possession of St. Helena, but in January, 1673, the Island was attacked and captured by the Dutch who were driven out the following May by Captain Richard Munden. A Charter was issued by Charles II in December, 1673, regranting the Island to the Company but reserving the allegiance of the people to His Majesty. It remained in the Company's hands until the 22nd April, 1834, when it was brought under the direct government of the Crown by an Act of Parliament of 1833. Modifications in the form of Government were made during the period of the Emperor Napoleon's captivity when the Governor, Sir Hudson Lowe, was nominated by the Crown but appointed by the Company.

ASCENSION.

Ascension Island lies in latitude 7° 53′ South and longitude 14° 18′ West, about 700 miles north-west of St. Helena. It has an area of 34 square miles.

From the sea Ascension appears bleak and desolate. Green Mountain, however, 2,800 feet high, relieves with its vegetation the barren and depressing effect of the larger part of the Island and affords pasture for about 600 sheep and cattle.

At the present time the Island is an important cable station, and its only inhabitants are English and St. Helena employees of the Cable Company.

A note on the climate of St. Helena and Ascension will be found in the Report for 1929—Colonial Report, No. 1,475. The same Report also contains a note on the history of the Islands.

II.—GOVERNMENT.

By an Act of William IV, dated the 28th of August, 1833, the Island of St. Helena, as from the 22nd of April, 1834, was transferred from the East India Company and became vested in the Crown.

Provision for the authority and appointment of Governor, for the establishment of a Council to assist the Governor, and for the making and promulgation of laws, was made by a Royal Order in Council dated the 12th day of October, 1835. This Order was revoked by an Order dated the 27th of July, 1863, and fresh provision was made.

The Executive Council as it exists at present was established by "The St. Helena Order in Council, 1929," revoking previous Orders. By Instructions issued on the 5th of June, 1929, it is provided that the Council shall consist of the Senior Military Officer in Command of regular troops in the Island and of the person holding the substantive appointment of Government Secretary of the Island, as *ex officio* Members, and of such other persons as may from time to time be appointed. Provision was also included for the appointment of Extraordinary Members on special occasions.

At the present time there are three Unofficial Members of Council.

Subject to the reservation of power for legislation by Parliament and by the Privy Council the Order of 1863 provides for the making of laws by the Governor. It is also laid down under "The Interpretation and General Law Ordinance, 1895," that "a copy of the draft of every Ordinance shall be affixed to a board in front of the Court House for the inspection of the Public for one month before the passing thereof; . . . provided always that in any case in which the Governor-in-Council thinks it urgently necessary to dispense with such public notification . . . he may do so."

Ascension.

By Letters Patent dated the 12th of September, 1922, Ascension became a Dependency of St. Helena and it was provided that the Governor and Executive Council of St. Helena should have the same powers in relation to Ascension as they possess in relation to St. Helena. The Manager of the Eastern Telegraph Company is appointed as Resident Magistrate and is a member of the Executive Council of St. Helena.

III.—POPULATION.

At the time of its discovery in 1502 St. Helena was uninhabited and until it was formally annexed by the East India Company in 1659 there was no settled population. The Island was used during this period as a place of refuge for seamen and others who remained

for varying periods. Some of these left a record of their stay in the Island by inscribing stones with the dates they arrived, and the vessels they came in. With the advent of the East India Company a small population was established, which was added to from time to time by the arrival of officials and merchants, and by time-expired soldiers who remained on the Island. The East India Company also employed large numbers of slaves many of whom were brought to the Island from the Far East, and in 1810 large numbers of Chinese labourers were imported owing to the scarcity of labour in the Island. The Island population to-day is largely of mixed origin.

The English environment which was created by the English colonists was firmly established, and the language of the Island has always been English.

The population as ascertained by the census taken in the year 1931 is classified as under :—

	Males.	*Females.*	*Total.*
Islanders	1,825	2,026	3,851
Other British Residents	77	65	142
Other Nationals	2	—	2
	1,904	2,091	3,995

The distribution of the population is shown in the following table :—

District.	*Males.*	*Females.*	*Total.*
Jamestown, including the Briars and Rupert's Valley	706	823	1,529
Half Tree Hollow and Ladder Hill (including Garrison)	227	263	490
St. Paul's	157	173	330
High Point, Farm Lodge, Rosemary and Cleughs Plain	140	155	295
Blue Hill	140	124	264
Sandy Bay...	143	146	289
Longwood and Hutt's Gate	391	407	798
	1,904	2,031	3,995

The estimated population on 31st December, 1933, was 4,170.

Births and Deaths, 1933.		*Rate per* 1,000.
Births	116	27·81
Deaths	68	16·40
Infant mortality per 1,000 deaths		172·41

The population of Ascension as ascertained by the census taken in the year 1931 is classified as under :—

St. Helenians	152
Other British residents	36
	188

The population on 31st December, 1933, was :—

St. Helenians	113
Other British residents	57
	170

IV.—HEALTH.

The medical establishment during the year consisted of a Colonial Surgeon, a Surgeon Dentist, and at the hospital one English nurse and three St. Helena women in training as probationers. At the close of the year the appointment of a Second Medical Officer was sanctioned.

The Board of Health, composed of three members elected by rate-payers and a Chairman and three members nominated by the Government, met regularly during the year. The Board had under consideration questions concerned with overcrowding, the cleaning and gutting of fish, and improvements in sanitation.

The general health of the Island during the year has been good. For the first time in the history of the Island a serious motor accident, in which fortunately there were no deaths, placed for a short time a severe strain on the surgical resources of the Civil Hospital. Influenza of a mild type was prevalent in the months of September, October, and November.

The Civil Hospital maintained by the Government is an institution of 14 beds. The attendance of out-patients during the year was 4,560 and there were 128 admissions involving 19 major and 65 minor operations.

Two dressing stations are established at convenient centres in the country districts where 712 and 270 cases were treated respectively. 2,138 visits were made in Jamestown and 781 in the country districts. Vaccination, as a precautionary measure, is carried out under the Ordinance although there have been no cases of small-pox.

The Poor House, under the management of a Poor Relief Board of five members elected by rate-payers and meeting every fortnight, was visited weekly by the Colonial Surgeon. The health of inmates, who number 22, was good.

A Lunatic Asylum is maintained under the direction and management of the Poor Relief Board, subject to the general control of the Governor. The number of inmates at the end of the year was five. It is visited weekly by the Colonial Surgeon. The health of the inmates during the year was good.

V.—HOUSING.

The general conditions as regards housing continues to be unsatisfactory. In the country areas an attempt at improvement has been made by the Diocesan Finance Board allotting the land forming part of the Episcopal Endowment for smallholdings to be held on a 21 years' lease at a very moderate rental. The allotments have all been taken up, but the resources of the holders, with one exception, have not yet permitted the construction of cottages.

In the latter part of the year information was received of the appointment of an Agricultural Officer, part of whose duties will be to investigate the possibility of establishing smallholdings. These, if successful, will bring some relief in the present shortage of cottages in the country districts.

In Jamestown, where there is much slum property, overcrowding amongst the working classes is assuming serious proportions. Owing to the steep valley in which the town is situated there is very little room for expansion. There are certain vacated military sites where tenements could be constructed, but owing to lack of funds these cannot be proceeded with.

There is also an acute shortage of houses in a reasonable state of repair suitable for intending residents, and the Government has the utmost difficulty in finding houses for its officials. One of the principal firms in the Island has recently purchased two dilapidated properties with the intention of reconstructing and furnishing them, so as to provide suitable accommodation for visitors making a few months' stay in the Island.

The only legislation dealing with overcrowding is a provision in the Public Health Ordinance, 1869, which gives the Board of Health power to decide the number of persons who may live in any one room.

VI.—PRODUCTION.

During the year under review St. Helena experienced one of the severe droughts which were frequently experienced in the earlier history of the Island. The results on farm and vegetable produce and stock have been serious.

The pasturage on the Island, owing to lack of rain is not good; high rates of freight make the cost of importation of fertilizers prohibitive; and the lack of rain was therefore felt severely.

The two years 1932 and 1933 will be remembered in the Island as being the driest within living memory.

The average yearly rainfall may be taken as being from 36 to 39 inches. A drought started in October, 1932, and the total rainfall for the year 1st October, 1932, to 30th September, 1933, was 21·08 inches, being no less than 14·92 inches below the lowest average.

Although during the months of March, May, and July, 1932, exceptionally heavy rains were experienced, the figures being 6·43, 6·46, and 5·50 inches respectively, the total (34·48 inches) for that year was 1·52 inches below the lowest average.

The total for 1933 is 21·65 inches, being 14·35 inches below the lowest average.

The grand total for the two years 1932 and 1933 being 56·13 inches, the final result is, therefore, 15·87 inches below the minimum average.

A remarkable peculiarity, however, about the rainfall of this Island with its small area of 47 square miles is the marked difference in the figures recorded in the various districts.

Fibre Production.—The fibre market showed no improvement during the year and prices continued to be the lowest recorded since the inauguration of the industry in 1907. The manufacture of fibre and tow from New Zealand flax (*Phormium tenax*) is the principal industry in the Island. The effects of a collapse in the market since 1930 have probably been most felt by the small-holders who planted their holdings with flax in the boom period, and who have now no market other than the Government mill for their leaves, or ground available which they can put to other cultivation. About 3,250 acres are now cultivated with flax. Of the nine mills in the Island five have been in operation throughout the year working on an average subsidy of £3 15s. per ton of fibre produced as a measure of unemployment relief.

Particulars of the production, exports, and value of fibre and tow are appended :—

1933.	*Produced. Tons.*	*Exported. Tons.*	*Average price. London.*	
			£ s. d.	
Fibre	855	668	12 18 0	per ton.
Tow	336	285	9 0 0	„

Rope Industry.—Small consignments of rope have been exported from time to time by the small factory operated by Messrs. Deason Bros.

Horticulture.—The drought has had a severe effect on potato cultivation, one of the principal crops of St. Helena. The price during the year rose to 2s. per gallon of 7 lb. and for a few weeks the product was unobtainable. Vegetable production was also affected, and a serious shortage was felt during the last half of the year.

The Union Castle Mail Steamship Company have continued to place small but regular orders for vegetables, fruit, and eggs, and much attention is given to fostering this important trade. The value of commodities supplied was £311.

Farming.—Farming is now carried on by only one firm in the Island to supply local needs in meat and dairy produce, and serious losses were occasioned by the drought.

ASCENSION.

The only export from Ascension at the present time is that of turtles. The number of turtles captured during 1933 was 55, of which 48 were exported during the year. In former years the export of turtles was on a considerable scale, 750 being exported in 1834, 600 in 1850, and 650 in 1853.

At Green Mountain the Eastern Telegraph Company possess a farm for the maintenance of imported animals and gardens for the cultivation of vegetables. At the end of the year the stock consisted of 21 cattle, 273 sheep, and some pigs.

VII.—COMMERCE.

The aggregate value of external trade, exclusive of bullion and specie, for the year amounted to £40,838 as compared with £38,360 for the previous year. Imports showed a decrease of £2,130 and exports an increase of £4,608.

The following table shows under the principal heads the respective values for the past five years :—

Imports.	*1929.*	*1930.*	*1931.*	*1932.*	*1933.*
	£	£	£	£	£
Food, drink, and tobacco ...	26,596	24,095	23,347	17,122	17,359
Raw materials and articles mainly unmanufactured	2,078	1,088	608	149	620
Articles wholly or mainly manufactured	17,960	18,754	19,405	14,167	11,219
Miscellaneous and unclassified ...	771	474	523	791	901
	47,405	44,411	43,883	32,229	30,099
Bullion and specie	—	—.	—	4,000	1,020
Total imports	47,405	44,411	43,883	36,229	31,119

Exports.	*1929.*	*1930.*	*1931.*	*1932.*	*1933.*
	£	£	£	£	£
New Zealand fibre	26,759	11,890	10,975	3,265	7,553
,, tow	9,191	4,915	3,693	1,353	1,873
,, rope and twine ...	2,006	2,243	301	925	968
Other articles	615	730	330	588	345
	38,571	19,778	15,299	6,131	10,739
Bullion and specie	—	67	828	749	32
Total exports	38,571	19,845	16,127	6,880	10,771

Imports.

It will be observed that there was a slight increase in the value of imports of food, drink, and tobacco. The decrease under wholly or mainly manufactured articles is attributed to the importation of a large consignment of petrol and oil and more motor cars during the year 1932.

The following table shows the value of the principal articles imported during the years 1932 and 1933 together with the decreases or increases :—

	1932.	*1933.*	*Decrease — Increase +*
	£	£	£
Provisions	14,401	14,777	+ 376
Drapery	3,355	3,404	+ 49
Motor-cars and lorries	3,193	1,101	— 2,092
Petrol and oil	2,500	41	— 2,459
Hardware	1,115	1,721	+ 606
Beer, wines, and spirits	1,413	1,527	+ 114
Tobacco and cigarettes	1,325	1,055	— 270

The undermentioned quantities may also be recorded :—

	1932.	*1933.*	*Decrease — Increase +*
Beer, wines, and spirits ...	5,278 gals.	6,667 gals.	+ 1,389 gals.
Tobacco and cigarettes ...	5,909 lb.	5,640 lb.	— 269 lb.

The countries of origin were as follows :—

	1929.	*1930.*	*1931.*	*1932.*	*1933.*
	£	£	£	£	£
United Kingdom	34,848	36,160	35,920	28,732	24,358
South Africa	8,051	5,101	5,218	3,136	3,010
United States of America ...	3,112	1,543	900	3,550	156
Other Foreign Countries	1,394	1,607	1,845	811	3,595

Importations from South Africa consisted mainly of food, grain, wine, and tobacco. Those from other foreign countries included building material from France to the value of £1,063, and foodstuffs from the Argentine valued at £681, while the remainder from other foreign countries were foodstuffs, drink, and hardware.

Exports.

The increase in value of exports is accounted for by the continued milling of fibre throughout the year, under subsidy, as a measure of unemployment relief. Statistics of these exports during the past five years are shown in the following table :—

	1929.	*1930.*	*1931.*	*1932.*	*1933.*
	Tons.	*Tons.*	*Tons.*	*Tons.*	*Tons.*
Fibre	889	540	644	234	668
Tow...	505	342	296	144	285
Rope and twine	51	52	23	37	45

Rope and twine are shipped to England and South Africa while fibre and tow are exported to England and occasionally to South Africa.

The distribution of the total exports of the Colony during the past five years has been as follows :—

	1929.	*1930.*	*1931.*	*1932.*	*1933.*
	£	£	£	£	£
United Kingdom	36,175	18,699	15,569	5,774	10,356
South Africa	2,396	1,146	558	1,106	333
Argentine	—	—	—	--	82

VIII.—WAGES AND COST OF LIVING.

Wages for skilled and semi-skilled workmen vary from 2s. to 3s. 6d. per day.

The Government wage for adult unskilled labour is 2s. per day, amounting to 12s. for a week of forty-five hours, the half-day on Saturday counting as a full day.

In the flax mills the average daily rate for men is slightly under 1s. 9d. for a nine-hour day. The wages paid to women are slightly under 1s. per day.

In the rope works the average wage for men is 12s. per week, and for women 5s.

The number of persons employed in the flax mills is 222 and in the rope works 11.

In domestic service the monthly wage with board and lodging for housemaids varies from 10s. to £2, for cooks from 30s. to £2, and for male servants from 30s. to £4 15s.

The cost of living varies greatly. Meat, including fowls, is obtainable at 1s. per lb., fish is very cheap, but the supply is extremely limited and scarce in the country districts. Eggs vary according to season from 1s. 6d. to 2s. per dozen, fresh butter is 3s. per lb., and imported butter 2s. 8d. per lb.; fresh milk is 5d. per imperial pint, and the price of fresh vegetables varies with the supply which is very limited at certain seasons. Rice which forms the staple article of diet of St. Helenians is 2½d. per lb.

and potatoes vary throughout the year from 8d. to 2s. per gallon of 7 lb. The cost of imported groceries on account of lack of communications and freight rates is higher than in the United Kingdom.

From time to time accommodation is available for visitors, and St. Helena has attractions as a place of residence for those who seek a genial climate and quietude. It is estimated that two people could live comfortably and in full enjoyment of all the Island has to offer on £500 to £550 a year. With a more limited range of activity two people could live on considerably less.

IX.—EDUCATION AND WELFARE INSTITUTIONS.

The education on the Island is carried on in eight primary schools, while a few children receive private tuition in their own homes. Of these eight schools three are wholly under Government control, two—one for boys and the other for girls—in town, and one mixed school in the country. Three schools are administered by a local board under a Charity Trust, another is administered by the St. Helena Benevolent Society, which was founded in 1814, and the last of the eight, now known as the Holbech Memorial School, after its founder, looks to the Church for its maintenance.

The number of children attending these eight schools during 1933 was as follows:—

Three Government schools	291
Three Hussey Charity	326
St. Helena Benevolent Society	59
Holbech Memorial	42

All five non-government schools receive Government assistance, but their financial position is far from satisfactory and application has been made for increased help. Buildings need repairs, more desks and more material are needed; and current expenses exceed their total income.

The work of all the schools has proceeded satisfactorily throughout the year. The children of the Government schools are examined quarterly by the Superintendent of Education, and the other schools annually.

Weekly classes for pupil teachers in their four years' course, and for some of the older children who wish to improve, are conducted by the Superintendent of Education.

On the technical side the boys attend a woodwork class twice a week, where considering the short time they can give to it they produce good work. The girls are taught needlework, knitting, darning, and patching. Their work was examined at the end of the year by competent persons and was highly praised.

There is need for training in domestic economy or for domestic service, if and when funds permit.

There is no Government insurance against old age, unemployment, or sickness. Most of the Islanders, however, are members of Friendly Societies, which are formed for affording relief and maintenance in sickness and advanced age.

There is a Poor Relief Board, established under the Poor Relief Ordinance, 1914. Its members are elected annually by the ratepayers. The annual revenue of the Board is about £900 to £1,000, derived from a quarterly 5d. rate, and a Government contribution of £82. The average daily number of inmates in the Poor House was 25 during the year.

There are four Friendly Societies for men with a recorded membership of 1,543, but many persons are members of more than one society. The male population of the Island over 14 years of age may be estimated at approximately 1,218.

A note on the Friendly Societies will be found in the Annual Report for 1931.

X.—COMMUNICATIONS AND TRANSPORT.

There is regular communication once a month with England and South Africa by the Union Castle Intermediate steamers. In addition, an American steamer of the American-South African Line called on four occasions.

The number of vessels which called during the year are as follows :—

British vessels	28
British warships	4
American vessel—4 visits	4
Argentine vessel	1
Finnish barques	3
	40

There are 60 miles of road maintained by the Public Works Department, and 56 motor lorries and cars are registered and licensed.

There is no wireless station in St. Helena, but there is a cable station with communication to all parts of the world.

The Empire Short-wave Broadcasting Service is received well in the Island.

There is regular postal communication each month between the Colony and England and South Africa. Mails are also made up as other occasions present themselves.

XI.—BANKING, CURRENCY, AND WEIGHTS AND MEASURES.

The Government Savings Bank is the only banking institution in the Colony.

The aggregate balances of depositors' accounts during the last five years were as follows :—

Year.	*Balance of Deposits at 31st December.*
	£
1929	17,369
1930	17,135
1931	18,770
1932	20,620
1933	20,958

The total number of depositors on 31st December, 1933, was 207 as compared with 216 on the same date in 1932.

The invested portion of the Savings Bank deposits at the end of the year is represented by Stock of the mean market value of £19,350.

By the St. Helena Coinage Order, 1925, all coins which under the Coinage Acts of 1870 and 1891 are legal tender in the United Kingdom, and all silver coins which under the Coinage Act, 1922, are legal tender in the Union of South Africa are legal tender in the Island of St. Helena.

By the Weights and Measures Ordinance, 1905, the weights and measures for the time being lawfully in use in the United Kingdom and no others are to be used in St. Helena.

XII.—PUBLIC WORKS.

The expenditure on recurrent works during the year was as under :—

	£
Current repairs	225
Maintenance of roads	942
Maintenance of water system	296

Construction of a Treasury strong room was completed during the year, but with this exception no major works were undertaken. The Department is principally engaged in the current work of maintenance of roads, repairs to Government buildings, and maintenance of domestic water-supplies. The drought experienced during the year made the upkeep of the roads, with the funds available, less difficult than usual. The roads maintained by the Department are the main roads of the Island only, and many secondary roads used by horse and pack transport are in need of repair and improvement. The upkeep of Government buildings is

the cause of much concern to the Department. Ravages of termites and lack of funds in the past have left the Government with a legacy of many public buildings in urgent need of repairs. In spite of the serious drought no shortage of water for domestic purposes was experienced, and supplies were also maintained for the service of shipping. Renewals and repairs have also been carried out to the drainage system in Jamestown.

XIII.—JUSTICE, POLICE, AND PRISONS.

Subject to all local Ordinances and Orders in force, the law of the Colony is so much of the law of England for the time being as is suitable and appropriate as far as local circumstances permit.

The Supreme Court of St. Helena which is a Court of Record, was established by Order-in-Council of 13th February, 1839. Subsequent Orders extended its jurisdiction to Matrimonial and Divorce Causes. By Order-in-Council of the 5th of April, 1852, the Governor, in the absence of the Chief Justice, may act as Chief Justice, or appoint some other person to act. The Acting Chief Justice may be assisted at his discretion by Assessors who must be Members of the Executive Council or Justices of the Peace.

There were one criminal and four civil cases before the Supreme Court during the year.

Summary jurisdiction is exercised by the Magistrate and Justices of the Peace. One hundred and twenty-three cases were reported to the police during the year. In 54 cases action was taken in the Court resulting in 33 convictions, of which four were for offences against the person, thirteen for offences against property, three for offences against the Motor Regulations, and the others for minor offences against Ordinances in force.

The Small Debts Court, which has jurisdiction up to sums not exceeding £25, is established by Ordinance No. 2 of 1905. Seven cases were brought before the Court during the year as compared with twenty-two in 1932.

Gaol.—Fourteen persons were committed to prison during the year as compared with 19 in 1932; the daily average being 0·8 as compared with 2·5 in 1932.

Police.—The increase in motor traffic has thrown many additional duties on the police.

XIV.—LEGISLATION.

Nine Ordinances were passed during the year, of which the more important were :—

No. 1. Customs (Consolidation) Amendment.
No. 5. Customs (Consolidation) Second Amendment.
No. 6. Customs Exemption Ordinance, 1933.
No. 7. Crayfish Export Ordinance, 1933.

XV.—PUBLIC FINANCE AND TAXATION.

Revenue and Expenditure.

The following table shows the revenue and expenditure of the Colony for the past five years:—

Year.	*Revenue.*	*Grants by Colonial Development Fund.*	*Grants-in-aid by His Majesty's Treasury.*	*Total Revenue.*	*Expenditure.*
	£	£	£	£	£
1929 ...	16,456	—	4,000	20,456	22,385
1930 ...	12,570	—	6,000	18,570	25,820
1931 ...	11,940	6,340	7,000	25,820	27,109
1932 ...	13,817	560	13,500	27,877	18,906
1933 ...	13,548	—	5,000	18,548	18,617

The revenue for the year 1933 as compared with the preceding year is summarised hereunder:—

	1932.	1933.
	£	£
Customs	2,362	4,754
Port and Marine	1,723	1,471
Licences, Taxes, etc.	642	619
Fees of Court or Office and Reimbursements	1,100	735
Post Office	769	911
Revenue from Government Properties	1,089	1,119
Interest	431	627
Miscellaneous	2,936	383
Sale of Land	17	3
Ascension	2,748	2,926
	13,817	13,548
Colonial Development Fund ...	560	—
Grants-in-aid	13,500	5,000
	27,877	18,548

The expenditure for the year as compared with the preceding year is as under :—

	1932. £	1933. £
Pensions and Gratuities	1,185	1,059
Governor and Legal	1,186	1,097
Secretariat	1,052	1,021
Treasury, Customs, Port and Marine	552	914
Post Office	463	412
Public Health	2,344	1,997
Education	848	845
Agriculture and Forestry	1,008	530
Police and Gaol	712	649
Public Works Department and Recurrent	3,748	3,324
Miscellaneous	1,071	1,424
Ascension	2,025	2,035
	16,194	15,337
Relief of Unemployment (Flax Subsidy)	—	3,119
Works Extraordinary	1,412	136
Colonial Development Fund—		
Reconstruction of Roads ...	1,300	—
Improvement of Telephone System	—	25
	18,906	18,617

The receipts under the head Customs show an increase of £2,392 in comparison with the revenue for the previous year. This is mainly attributable to the new import duties imposed under the Customs (Consolidation) Fourth Amendment Ordinance, 1932, which became operative as from the 10th of December of that year, and to these duties becoming preferential rates of duty under the Customs (Consolidation) Second Amendment Ordinance, 1933, which also provided for a General Tariff which came into effect as from the 1st of September.

The decrease of revenue under Miscellaneous is principally due to the inclusion under this head of an amount of £2,675 in respect of the appreciation of Savings Bank investments in the year 1932, as against a sum of £242 during the year 1933.

A statement of the Assets and Liabilities is appended :—

	£ s. d.	£ s. d.
Assets.		
Cash—		
Local Treasury	1,894 14 5	
At Crown Agents	286 0 5	
Remittances in transit to Crown Agents	489 5 9	
		2,670 0 7
Advances—		
Postmaster	110 8 1	
Other Advances	1,186 15 0	
		1,297 3 1
Investments—		
Savings Bank	19,349 19 11	
Alexander Bequest	1,092 9 5	
Red Cross Society	132 7 3	
Botley's Fund	1 6 4	
		20,576 2 11
Flax Mill and Machinery ...		734 5 11
Unallocated Stores		1,016 13 2
		£26,294 5 8
Liabilities.		
Deposits—		
Savings Bank	20,957 14 11	
Postmaster	277 5 4	
Alexander Bequest	1,092 9 5	
Red Cross Society	132 7 3	
Botley's Fund	1 6 4	
Alexander Bequest (Interest Account)	13 14 11	
Telephone Fund	36 15 8	
Other Deposits	428 12 9	
		22,940 6 7
Bills of Exchange		723 17 10
Excess of Assets over Liabilities (Surplus)		2,630 1 3
		£26,294 5 8

There is no public debt.

Taxation.

The principal sources of taxation and the yield during the year 1933 are as follows :—

	£
Customs—	
Import duties	4,690
Port and wharfage dues—	
Shipping dues	231
Wharfage dues	1,240
Licences—	
Carriages, carts and horses	68
Motor cars and lorries	137
Boats	113
Firearms and game	49
Liquor	125
Rates—	
Water	229

Provision of a Preferential and General Customs Tariff was made by Ordinance No. 5 of 1933 with effect from the 1st of September. This Ordinance provides for the Customs import duties under the Customs (Consolidation) Fourth Amendment Ordinance, 1932, to be the preferential rates applying to goods the growth, produce, or manufacture of the British Empire and imposes on other goods increased rates and duties on all imports with only a few exceptions as the General Tariff. Of the commodities admitted thereunder the Preferential Tariff excludes essential commodities such as flour, wheat, rice, margarine, milk, cotton piece-goods, drugs and dressings, timber and a variety of building materials, agricultural implements and fertilizers, etc., and imposes light duties on other essential commodities such as sugar ($\frac{1}{4}$d. per lb.), tea (5 per cent.), etc.; the duty on spirits is £1 8s. 6d. per proof gallon, on sparkling wines 8s. per gallon, on still wines 4s. to 5s. per gallon, on beer and ale in bottles 1s. 4d. per gallon and in wood 8d. per gallon, on cigars 7s. 6d. per lb., cigarettes 5s. per lb., manufactured tobacco 4s. per lb., and unmanufactured tobacco 1s. per lb.

The General Tariff imposes on rice, flour, and wheat a duty at the rate of 2s. 1d. per 100 lb. and in addition thereto a surtax of one-quarter of the duty payable; on other goods enumerated in the Customs (Consolidation) Fourth Amendment Ordinance, 1932, the rates of duty therein prescribed and in addition a surtax of one-quarter of the duty payable; and on goods not particularly enumerated in the Customs (Consolidation) Fourth Amendment Ordinance, 1932, with a few exceptions a duty of 10 per cent. *ad valorem* and in addition thereto a surtax of one-quarter of the duty payable.

XVI.—MISCELLANEOUS.

Lands.

The area of St. Helena is approximately 30,000 acres, of which 8,600 acres are regarded as cultivable. Of the cultivable area approximately 4,261 acres are owned by the Government and are in occupation under forms of tenure classified as Crown lease, permanent tenure, and freehold subject to quit rent.

Originally the land of the Island was the property of the East India Company and leased to settlers. These leases at various times were converted in many cases to a permanent occupation subject to the annual payment of a quit rent.

The balance of 4,339 acres is held as freehold property acquired by persons who were permitted to commute their quit rents for a cash payment.

During the year one important land transaction occurred, but the paucity of transactions makes it difficult to arrive at the market value of land.

The only legislation dealing with land is the Conveyancing and Registration Ordinance, 1893, which simplifies conveyancing and provides for registration.

General.

Work was begun in December on the reconstruction of those parts of Longwood Old House—the house occupied by the Emperor Napoleon—which had not been completed at the restoration of the building when it was handed over to the French Government in 1858. The work is being carried out by the Société des Amis de Sainte-Hélène from funds obtained by private subscription. At the same time certain articles of furniture in possession of the Government which had been used by Napoleon were presented to the French Government to form the nucleus of a museum which the Société hopes to establish at Longwood.

Mr. P. F. Barton, V.D., arrived in the Colony and assumed office as Colonial Treasurer and Collector of Customs on the 31st March.

APPENDIX.

Books on St. Helena of General Interest.

Title.	*Publishers or Agents.*	*Price.*
"A History of the Island of St. Helena", 1808, by T. H. Brook.	Publishers to East India Company.	—
"St. Helena, 1875", by J. C. Mellis.	L. Reeve & Co., London.	£2 2*s.*
"St. Helena—the Historic Island", 1903, by E. L. Jackson.	Ward, Lock & Co., Ltd., London.	—
*"Napoleon in Exile", 1915, by Norwood Young (Two Volumes).	Stanley Paul & Co., London.	£1 12*s.*
"St. Helena Who's Who", 1919, by Arnold Chaplin.	A. L. Humphreys, London.	—
"Tracts relative to the Island of St. Helena", by Beatson, London, 1816.		
"Extracts from Records of St. Helena", by H. R. Janisch, C.M.G., Jamestown, 1885.		
"History of St. Helena", English Historical Review, by Sir William Foster, July, 1919.		
"Report on the Agricultural Resources of St. Helena", by D. Morris. His Majesty's Stationery Office. Reprinted 1906.		

* This work contains a bibliography of 172 publications referring to the captivity of the Emperor Napoleon in St. Helena.

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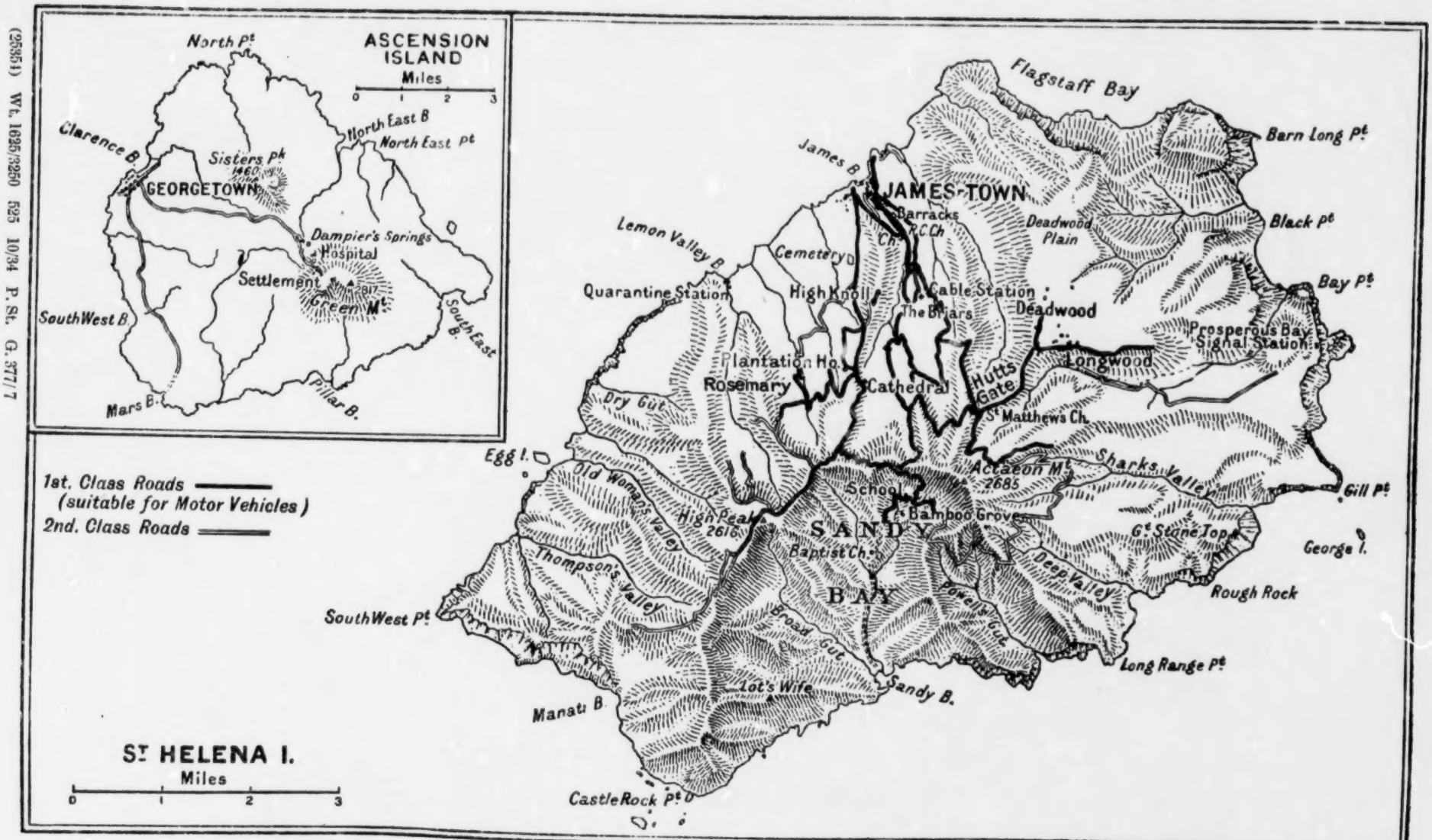

Stanford's Geographical Establishment, London

Reports, etc., of Imperial and Colonial Interest

MALTA.

Report of Royal Commission, 1931. [Cmd. 3993.] 3*s.* 6*d.* (3*s.* 11*d.*).
Minutes of Evidence. [Colonial No. 68.] 5*s.* (5*s.* 9*d.*).

IMPERIAL CONFERENCE, 1930.

Summary of Proceedings. [Cmd. 3717.] 2*s.* (2*s.* 2*d.*).
Appendices to the Summary of Proceedings. [Cmd. 3718.] 4*s.* (4*s.* 4*d.*).
Report of the Conference on Standardisation. (Including Resolutions adopted by the Imperial Conference). [Cmd. 3716.] 3*d.* (3½*d.*).

COLONIAL OFFICE CONFERENCE, 1930.

Summary of Proceedings. [Cmd. 3628.] 2*s.* (2*s.* 2*d.*).
Appendices to the Summary of Proceedings. [Cmd. 3629.] 3*s.* (3*s.* 3*d.*).

KENYA.

Native Affairs Department Annual Report for 1932. 3s. (3s. 4d.).
Report by the Financial Commissioner (Lord Moyne) on Certain Questions in Kenya. May, 1932. [Cmd. 4093.] 2*s.* (2*s.* 2*d.*).

KENYA, UGANDA, AND THE TANGANYIKA TERRITORY.

Railway Rates and Finance. Report by Mr. Roger Gibb, September, 1932. [Cmd. 4235.] 1*s.* 6*d.* (1*s.* 7*d.*).

TANGANYIKA TERRITORY.

Report by Sir Sydney Armitage Smith, K.B.E., C.B., on a Financial Mission. [Cmd. 4182.] 2*s.* 6*d.* (2*s.* 8*d.*).
East African Agricultural Research Station, Amani. Sixth Annual Report, 1933–34. [Colonial No. 100.] 1*s.* (1*s.* 1*d.*).

BECHUANALAND PROTECTORATE.

Financial and Economic Position. Report of Commission, March, 1933. [Cmd. 4368.] 3*s.* 6*d.* (3*s.* 9*d.*).

SWAZILAND.

Financial and Economic Situation. Report of Commission. [Cmd. 4114.] 2*s.* 6*d.* (2*s.* 9*d.*).

MALAYA.

Report of Brigadier-General Sir S. H. Wilson, G.C.M.G., K.C.B., K.B E., on his visit during 1932. [Cmd. 4276.] 1*s.* (1*s.* 1*d.*).

SEYCHELLES.

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ST. HELENA, 1934

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ANNUAL REPORT ON THE SOCIAL AND ECONOMIC PROGRESS OF THE PEOPLE OF ST. HELENA FOR 1934

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I.—GEOGRAPHY, CLIMATE, AND HISTORY.

The Colony of St. Helena consists of the Island of St. Helena with the Island of Ascension as a Dependency.

St. Helena.

St. Helena, with an area of about 47 square miles, is about the size of Jersey, and is situated in latitude 15° 55′ South and longitude 5° 42′ West. The Island is about 950 miles due south of the Equator, 4,000 miles from England, and 1,700 miles from Cape Town, and the nearest land, with the exception of the Island of Ascension 700 miles to the north-west, is a point on the West Coast of Africa 1,140 miles distant. From the sea the Island presents the appearance of a pyramidal rock rising to a height of 2,700 feet, but the interior, hidden by steep perpendicular cliffs, discloses a remarkable contrast in fertility and scenery. Running across the centre

of the Island, nearly east and west, is a high ridge which divides the Island into two natural divisions. This ridge forms the north wall of the crater of the extinct volcano which gave birth to the Island, the southern part having been broken away and submerged. The centre of the crater, the district called Sandy Bay, now forms one of the most picturesque parts of the Island, and the first sight of it from the summit of the ridge is an unfailing cause of astonishment to tourists and visitors. On the northern side of this ridge, the hills divided by deep ravines descend toward the sea for about three miles at a general slope of about 10°, and then terminate abruptly in the steep cliffs which form the coast-line. There are, however, some remarkable exceptions. In the north-east the mass known as the Barn and the hill called Flagstaff rise sheer from the sea to the height of 2,200 feet, whilst in the west, High Hill and Man and Horse reach to heights of 2,300 feet and 1,775 feet respectively.

The climate of St. Helena, in spite of the calumnies directed against it by the critics of the detention of the Emperor Napoleon, now all completely refuted, has long been recognized as being healthy and mild. There is no malaria or other mosquito-borne tropical disease. Storms are rare, the last thunder-storm having occurred in 1897. On the coast the average annual rainfall is 7 inches, at 1,000 feet about 21 inches, and at 2,000 feet about 39 inches. October with an average of 12 rain-days is the driest month, and February with an average of 19 rain-days the wettest. Almost every variety of plant is to be found, and although the Island is so small and presents outwardly such a barren appearance, over a thousand different botanical species are known to exist, of which 40 are indigenous.

St. Helena was originally a possession of the East India Company, but by the Government of India Act, 1833, it was brought under the direct administration of the Crown, with effect from the 22nd April, 1834, the actual occupation being delayed until the 24th February, 1836. Under the East India Company the Island had enjoyed the benefits of a paternal and benevolent Government for over 163 years, at a cost of about £100,000 per annum against an annual revenue of about £4,000 from the Settlement. The alteration in its constitutional status was followed by the most drastic reforms, the full effects of which were counter-balanced by the Island becoming an important port of call on one of the world's greatest trade routes. A substantial garrison maintained by the Crown, the presence of the West Coast Squadron of the Royal Navy, and Imperial expenditure in the liberation of slaves from the West Coast of Africa all helped to delay the results of a policy of making St. Helena balance its budget from its own resources, and it was not until 1873 that the full effects of the change from the Company to the Crown became evident.

The development of the overland route to India, improved methods of preserving provisions and of carrying water, and better construction of vessels, all contributed to make vessels pass St. Helena without calling, and the opening of the Suez Canal in 1869 finally brought about its downfall to poverty.

Ascension.

Ascension Island lies in latitude 7° 53′ South and longitude 14° 18′ West, about 700 miles north-west of St. Helena. It has an area of 34 square miles.

From the sea Ascension appears bleak and desolate. Green Mountain, however, 2,800 feet high, relieves with its vegetation the barren and depressing effect of the larger part of the Island and affords pasture for about 600 sheep and cattle.

Ascension was annexed to the Crown on the 22nd October, 1815, by the brigs *Peruvian* and *Zenobia* as a measure of security during the imprisonment of Napoleon in St. Helena.

At the present time the Island is an important cable station, and its only inhabitants are English and St. Helenian employees of the Cable Company.

A note on the climate of St. Helena and Ascension will be found in the Report for 1929—Colonial Report, No. 1,475. The same Report also contains a note on the history of the Islands under the East India Company.

II.—GOVERNMENT.

By an Act of William IV, dated the 28th of August, 1833, the Island of St. Helena, as from the 22nd of April, 1834, was transferred from the East India Company and became vested in the Crown.

Provision for the authority and appointment of Governor, for the establishment of a Council to assist the Governor, and for the making and promulgation of laws, was made by a Royal Order in Council dated the 12th of October, 1835. This Order was revoked by an Order dated the 27th of July, 1863, and fresh provision was made.

The Executive Council as it exists at present was established by "The St. Helena Order in Council, 1929," revoking previous Orders. By Instructions issued on the 5th of June, 1929, it is provided that the Council shall consist of the Senior Military Officer in Command of regular troops in the Island and of the person holding the substantive appointment of Government Secretary of the Island, as *ex officio* Members, and of such other persons as may from time to time be appointed. Provision was also included for the appointment of Extraordinary Members on special occasions.

At the present time there are three unofficial Members of Council.

Subject to the reservation of power for legislation by Parliament and by the Privy Council, the Order of 1863 provides for the making of laws by the Governor. It is also laid down under the "Interpretation and General Law Ordinance, 1895," that "a copy of the draft of every Ordinance shall be affixed to a board in front of the Court House for the inspection of the Public for one month before the passing thereof; provided always that in any case in which the Governor-in-Council thinks it urgently necessary to dispense with such public notification . . . he may do so."

Ascension.

By Letters Patent dated the 12th of September, 1922, Ascension became a Dependency of St. Helena, and it was provided that the Governor and Executive Council of St. Helena should have the same powers in relation to Ascension as they possess in relation to St. Helena. The Manager of the Eastern Telegraph Company is appointed as Resident Magistrate and is a Member of the Executive Council of St. Helena.

III.—POPULATION.

At the time of its discovery in 1502, St. Helena was uninhabited. From 1502 until 1659 it was used by the ships of all nations as a place where travellers and seamen might recuperate, and where fresh water and supplies might be obtained. In 1659 the East India Company sent John Dutton with a few soldiers and followers to annex the Island and form a settlement. These persons constituted the original European settlement of the Island, which from time to time was added to by more settlers and soldiers from England. Slaves from Africa and Asia, and in particular from Madagascar, were introduced, and in 1810 there was a large importation of Chinese workmen. In 1840 there was a considerable influx of liberated African slaves, and a few years later the St. Helena Regiment was permanently stationed in the Island. The men of this regiment were given certain facilities in regard to land, and many of the men formed associations with the Islanders.

The Island population to-day is largely of mixed origin. Many of the names are the same as those of the early settlers, and some families are able to trace their descent to the refugees from the City of London after its destruction by fire in 1666. The language of the Island has always been English, and the English environment has become firmly established. Although the climate of the Island is not inducive of qualities of energy and initiative, the people of St. Helena and their children have always been remarkable for their courtesy and consideration for others.

The population as ascertained by the census taken in the year 1931 is classified as under :—

	Males.	*Females.*	*Total.*
Islanders	1,825	2,026	3,851
Other British Residents	77	65	142
Other Nationals	2	—	2
	1,904	2,091	3,995

The distribution of the population is shown in the following table :—

District.	*Males.*	*Females.*	*Total.*
Jamestown, including the Briars and Rupert's Valley	706	823	1,529
Half Tree Hollow and Ladder Hill (including Garrison)	227	263	490
St. Paul's	157	173	330
High Point, Farm Lodge, Rosemary and Cleughs Plain	140	155	295
Blue Hill	140	124	264
Sandy Bay...	143	146	289
Longwood and Hutt's Gate	391	407	798
	1,904	2,091	3,995

The estimated population on 31st December, 1934, was 4,224.

Births and Deaths, 1931-1934.

	1931.	*1932.*	*1933.*	*1934.*
Births	123	152	116	101
Deaths	59	58	68	47
Infant mortality per 1,000 births	154·4	131·5	172·4	138·6

The population of Ascension as ascertained by the census taken in the year 1931 is classified as under :—

St. Helenians	152
Other British Residents	36
	188

The population on 31st December, 1934, was :—

St. Helenians	114
Other British Residents	59
	173

IV.—HEALTH.

The medical establishment of the Colony during the year consisted of :—

Senior Medical Officer.
Second Medical Officer.
Dental Surgeon.
Matron of the Hospital.
Three St. Helena women as Probationers.

The general health of the Island has been good, and there have been no epidemics. In the course of the year much valuable work has been achieved on beri beri which is due to the predilection of the people for polished rice as a staple foodstuff. About 80 cases have been under treatment.

The medical and dental care of the school children are subjects to which special attention is devoted.

The Civil Hospital, maintained by the Government, is an institution of 14 beds. The attendance of out-patients during the year was 1,616 and there were 130 admissions involving four major operations.

Two dressing stations are also established at convenient centres in the country districts for the treatment of out-patients from the remote areas. Vaccination of children, as a precautionary measure, is carried out under the Ordinance, although there have been no cases of smallpox.

The Poor House, under the management of a Poor Relief Board of five members elected by ratepayers and meeting every fortnight, was visited weekly by the Senior Medical Officer. The health of the inmates, who number 25, was good.

A Lunatic Asylum is maintained under the direction and management of the Poor Relief Board, subject to the general control of the Governor. The number of inmates at the end of the year was six. It is visited weekly by the Senior Medical Officer. The health of the inmates during the year was good.

V.—HOUSING.

The serious shortage of houses in both Jamestown and the country districts, and the dilapidated condition of many of the cottages, makes satisfactory housing a matter of the utmost difficulty. The population is steadily increasing, and there is much serious overcrowding with all its attendant evils.

The narrow valley in which Jamestown is situated permits of little expansion of the town area, and the inhabitants are reluctant to leave it for localities at higher altitudes. There is much slum property, and lack of funds makes it impossible to construct tenements on the few sites available. In the country districts there are few with resources sufficient to build themselves cottages, and

in any case there is a shortage of suitable land on which these could be erected. The construction of cottages, with between one or two acres of good agricultural land, would help materially in relieving much of the present poverty and distress, but the only land available is little better than scrub and rock.

The only legislation dealing with overcrowding is a provision in the Public Health Ordinance, 1869, which gives certain powers to the Board of Health. The Board, not unnaturally, is reluctant to exercise its powers in the improvement of houses when the occupiers have no means and there is nowhere else for them to live.

VI.—PRODUCTION.

Although St. Helena has a cultivable area of about 8,600 acres, and is a fertile Island in which almost every crop can be made to grow, it is remarkable that there should be practically no agricultural production of any importance other than that of New Zealand hemp (*Phormium tenax*).

The production of potatoes, vegetables, and a very small quantity of fruit for internal consumption and the supply of passing mail steamers, are the only agricultural pursuits, in general, in the Island.

The principal reasons for this lack of development of the Island resources lie in the difficulties in finding markets for the existing Island crops, and in find new products for which an export market is available.

Only one productive plant, *Phormium tenax*, is grown in any quantity, and it is grown principally in those areas which are unsuitable for other crops.

The Island potatoes have long been known for their superior quality and flavour, and in the course of the year an experimental shipment was sent to London at Christmas and marketed at very favourable prices. The experiment is to be repeated on a larger scale in the future, but the area of the Island in which potatoes can be grown at the required time of year is believed to be very limited.

Since the appointment of an Agricultural and Forestry Officer in March, various experiments have been undertaken with haricot beans and other products, and it is hoped the haricot beans will fetch favourable prices. The possibility of agricultural development is being closely investigated and, in view of its paramount importance to the Island's prosperity, it is to be hoped products will be found for which markets are available.

The severe drought of 1933 broke early in January, 1934. The fall for the year at 2,000 feet was 41·55 inches, and at sea level 11·80 inches, being three inches and five inches above the average.

Fibre Production.—The fibre market weakened in the course of the year, and in July the price of hemp dropped to the lowest recorded level of £11 per ton. The production of hemp is the

only industry in the Island, and as a measure of unemployment relief eight mills have been in operation during the year working on an average subsidy of £4 10s. per ton of fibre produced.

Particulars of the production, export, and value of fibre and tow are appended :—

1934.	*Produced. Tons.*	*Exported. Tons.*	*Average price per ton. London.*
			£ s. d.
Fibre	821	568	12 0 0
Tow	491	447	8 0 0

Rope Industry.—Small consignments of rope have been manufactured from locally produced hemp at the small factory operated by Messrs. Deason Brothers.

Horticulture.—Passing mail steamers have continued to place small regular orders for vegetables, fruit and eggs, and the value of commodities supplied amounted to £368, being an increase of £57 on the value for 1933.

Farming.—Farming is now undertaken by one firm alone for the supply of local needs in meat and dairy produce.

ASCENSION.

The only export from Ascension is that of turtles. The number of turtles captured during 1934 was 59.

At Green Mountain the Eastern Telegraph Company possess a farm for the maintenance of imported animals, and gardens for the cultivation of vegetables. At the end of the year the stock consisted of 23 cattle, 398 sheep, and some pigs.

VII.—COMMERCE.

The aggregate value of external trade, exclusive of bullion and specie, for the year amounted to £42,390 as compared with £40,838 for the previous year. Imports showed an increase of £2,577 and exports a decrease of £1,625.

The following table shows under the principal heads the respective values for the past five years :—

Imports.	*1930.*	*1931.*	*1932.*	*1933.*	*1934*
	£	£	£	£	£
Food, drink, and tobacco ...	24,095	23,347	17,122	17,359	17,545
Raw materials and articles mainly unmanufactured	1,088	608	149	620	1,145
Articles wholly or mainly manufactured	18,754	19,405	14,167	11,219	13,986
Miscellaneous and unclassified ...	474	523	791	901	—
	44,411	43,883	32,229	30,099	32,676
Bullion and specie	—	—	4,000	1,020	800
Total imports	44,411	43,883	36,229	31,119	33,476

Exports.	*1930.*	*1931.*	*1932.*	*1933.*	*1934.*
	£	£	£	£	£
New Zealand fibre	11,890	10,975	3,265	7,553	5,759
,, tow	4,915	3,693	1,353	1,873	2,457
,, rope and twine ...	2,243	301	925	968	498
Other articles	730	330	588	345	200
	19,778	15,299	6,131	10,739	8,914
Bullion and specie	67	828	749	32	35
Total exports	19,845	16,127	6,880	10,771	8,949

Imports.

It will be observed that there was a slight increase in the value of imports of food, drink, and tobacco. The increase under wholly or mainly manufactured articles is attributed to the importation of large consignments of petrol and oil and to more motor-cars and hardware being imported during the year.

The following table shows the value of the principal articles imported during the years 1933 and 1934, together with the decreases or increases :—

	1933.	*1934.*	*Decrease — Increase +*
	£	£	£
Provisions	14,777	14,308	— 469
Drapery	3,404	3,264	— 140
Motor-cars and lorries	1,101	1,697	+ 596
Petrol and oil	41	1,769	+ 1,728
Hardware	1,721	2,814	+ 1,093
Beer, wines, and spirits	1,521	1,229	— 292
Tobacco and cigarettes	1,055	963	— 92

The undermentioned quantities may also be recorded :—

	1933.	*1934.*	*Decrease — Increase +*
Beer, wines, and spirits ...	6,667 gal.	4,919 gal.	— 1,748 gal.
Tobacco and cigarettes ...	5,640 lb.	5,745 lb.	+ 105 lb.

The countries of origin were as follows :—

	1930.	*1931.*	*1932.*	*1933.*	*1934.*
	£	£	£	£	£
United Kingdom	36,160	35,920	28,732	24,358	22,129
South Africa	5,101	5,218	3,136	3,010	6,345
United States of America ...	1,543	900	3,550	156	2,497
Other Foreign Countries	1,607	1,845	811	3,595	2,505

Importations from South Africa consisted mainly of food, grain, wine, and tobacco. Those from other foreign countries included food-stuffs, motor-cars, petrol and oil from United States of America to the value of £2,497, and food-stuffs from the Argentine valued at £463, while the remainder from other foreign countries were food-stuffs, drink, and hardware.

Exports.

The decrease in value of exports is accounted for by the fall in market value of fibre throughout the year, and the absence of a market for hemp. The payment of a subsidy to millers during the year was continued as a measure of unemployment relief. Statistics of these exports during the past five years are shown in the following table :—

	1930.	*1931.*	*1932.*	*1933.*	*1934.*
	Tons.	*Tons.*	*Tons.*	*Tons.*	*Tons.*
Fibre	540	644	234	668	568
Tow...	342	296	144	285	447
Rope and twine	52	23	37	45	25

Rope and twine are shipped to England and South Africa, while fibre and tow are exported to England and occasionally to South Africa.

The distribution of the total exports of the Colony during the past five years has been as follows :—

	1930.	*1931.*	*1932.*	*1933.*	*1934.*
	£	£	£	£	£
United Kingdom	18,699	15,569	5,774	10,356	8,446
South Africa	1,146	558	1,106	333	503
Argentine	—	—	—	82	—

VIII.—WAGES AND COST OF LIVING.

Wages for skilled and semi-skilled workmen vary from 2s. to 3s. 6d. per day.

The Government wage for adult unskilled labour is 2s. per day amounting to 12s. for a week of forty-five hours, the half-day on Saturday counting as a full day.

In the flax mills the average daily rate for men is slightly under 1s. 9d. for a nine-hour day. The wages paid to women are slightly under 1s. per day.

In the rope works the average wage for men is 12s. per week, and for women 5s.

The number of persons employed in the flax mills is 210 and in the rope works 11.

In domestic service the monthly wage with board and lodging for housemaids varies from 10s. to £2, for cooks from 30s. to £2, and for male servants from 30s. to £4 15s.

The cost of living varies greatly. Meat, including fowls, is obtainable at 1s. per lb.; fish is very cheap, but the supply is extremely limited and scarce in the country districts. Eggs vary according to season from 1s. 6d. to 2s. per dozen, fresh butter is 3s. per lb., and imported butter 1s. 8d. per lb.; fresh milk is 5d. per imperial pint, and the price of fresh vegetables varies with the supply which is very limited at certain seasons. Rice which forms the staple article of diet of St. Helenians is 2d. per lb. and potatoes

vary throughout the year from 8d. to 2s. per gallon of 7 lb. On account of lack of communications and freight rates the cost of imported groceries is higher than in the United Kingdom.

From time to time accommodation is available for visitors, and St. Helena has attractions as a place of residence for those who seek a congenial climate and quietude. It is estimated that two people could live comfortably and in full enjoyment of all the Island has to offer on £500 to £550 a year. With a more limited range of activity two people could live on considerably less.

IX.—EDUCATION AND WELFARE INSTITUTIONS.

The educational system in St. Helena consists of eight primary schools, and a pupil teachers' and continuation class of more advanced pupils.

Of the primary schools three are administered by the Government, two in Jamestown for boys and girls respectively and one in the country. Three are administered by the trustees of the Hussey Charity, a fund established on a bequest in the will of Rebecca Hussey for the education of the children of slaves brought to the Island some seventy years or so ago from captured slavers, who afterwards were returned for settlement in Nigeria. Of the two remaining schools, the one at Sandy Bay is the only one left to the St. Helena Benevolent Society, which a hundred and more years ago took upon itself the education of the Island poor; the other at Blue Hill was founded thirty years ago in a remote part of the Island by the late Bishop Holbech. It has no endowment, but is maintained out of the Churches' Diocesan Fund assisted by a small grant from the South African Provincial Board of Education.

All the five non-Government schools are in receipt of small grants-in-aid.

Funds were granted in the 1934 estimates for repairs and improvements at the Hutt's Gate (Hussey Charity) and the Sandy Bay Schools, and in the course of the year, by the provision of 36 modern dual desks on steel frames, accommodation was provided for 72 children.

The Government country school, transferred from Luffkins to what is now known as St. Paul's Vicarage but which was formerly the country school before that school was removed to Luffkins, has been greatly improved by a new verandah and a well-built outside class room.

The work at all the schools is under the supervision of the Superintendent of Education who conducts an examination of the work at the three Government schools and the Blue Hill school at the end of each school quarter. The other schools are examined annually.

Pupil teachers undergo a four years' course in work on secondary school lines.

A woodwork class for boys and sewing classes for girls produce good results, and the girls win high praise from their examiners for the very careful and neat work they produce each year for inspection.

The children are also showing much interest in freehand drawing and painting. Music is not neglected and the singing is of good quality.

The Church has a benefit society for school children, which has a large membership. Sick relief is small, and when they are old enough the children are passed on to one or other of the adult societies. These are the Ancient Order of Foresters, the Mechanics Friendly and Benefit Society, the St. Helena Working Men's Christian Association, the Poor Society, and the Church Provident Society for Women, each as far as it goes doing a useful work in the social life of the people.

A children's lunch fund which provides a number of small rolls of bread for each school is maintained by the Church, and there is an urgent need for additional subscribers.

Welfare Institutions.—The maintenance of the poor is an obligation of the Poor Relief Board established under the Poor Relief Ordinance, 1914. Its members are elected annually by the ratepayers. The annual revenue of the Board is about £900 to £1,000, derived from a quarterly 5d. rate and a Government contribution of £82. The average daily number of inmates in the Poor House was 25 during the year, 68 being given outdoor relief.

The Friendly Societies, on which a note will be found in the Annual Report for 1931,* are the principal welfare institutions of St. Helena.

Other welfare work is very largely in the hands of the local representatives of all the religious denominations, and much valuable work of great social value is undertaken.

X.—COMMUNICATIONS AND TRANSPORT.

There is regular communication once a month with England and South Africa by the Union Castle Intermediate steamers. In addition, an American steamer of the American-South African Line called on four occasions. The vessels which called during the year were as follows :—

British vessels	31
British warships	3
American vessel—four visits	4
Other foreign vessels	5
	43

* Colonial Report, No. 1630.

The first aeroplane flight over St. Helena was made by a seaplane from H.M.S. *Dorsetshire* on 3rd October. Flying conditions were not good.

Sixty miles of roads are maintained by the Public Works Department, and although grades are steep and in many places narrow, the roads of the Island compare very favourably with those in other countries.

Sixty-eight motor-cars and lorries are registered and licensed.

There is no wireless station in St. Helena, but there is a cable station with communication to all parts of the world.

The Empire Short-wave Broadcasting Service is received well in the Island.

There is regular postal communication each month between the Colony and England and South Africa. Mails are also made up as other occasions present themselves.

XI.—BANKING, CURRENCY, AND WEIGHTS AND MEASURES.

The Government Savings Bank is the only banking institution in the Colony.

The aggregate balances of depositors' accounts during the last five years were as follows:—

Year.	*Balance of Deposits at 31st December.*
	£
1930	17,135
1931	18,770
1932	20,620
1933	20,958
1934	21,200

The total number of depositors on 31st December, 1934, was 211 as compared with 207 on the same date in 1933.

The invested portion of the Savings Bank deposits at the end of the year is represented by Stock of the mean market value of £19,404.

By the St. Helena Coinage Order, 1925, all coins which under the Coinage Acts of 1870 and 1891 are legal tender in the United Kingdom, and all silver coins which under the Coinage Act, 1922, are legal tender in the Union of South Africa, are legal tender in the Island of St. Helena.

By the Weights and Measures Ordinance, 1905, the weights and measures for the time being lawfully in use in the United Kingdom and no others are to be used in St. Helena.

XII.—PUBLIC WORKS.

The Public Works Department is principally engaged in the current work of maintenance of roads, repairs to Government buildings, and the maintenance of domestic water supplies. No major works were begun during the year. Falls of rock from the steep cliffs enclosing Jamestown are not uncommon, and in August a heavy fall of rock occurred on the wharf, fortunately attended with no loss of life. Considerable difficulty was experienced in clearing the débris, and assistance had to be obtained from the local garrison in the use of explosives. The Department has again experienced difficulty in obtaining stone for building purposes. Locally made bricks, burnt or sun-dried, are unobtainable, and the supplies of stone are scarce, most of the more conveniently placed quarries having been exhausted in the construction of the numerous buildings and fortifications undertaken by the East India Company. The public buildings were designed and built for establishments far larger than they are to-day, and their repair and maintenance with the small financial provision available is often impossible. In this connexion the condition of Longwood New House, built for the Emperor Napoleon, is an admirable example of the difficulties which confront the Government. The size and number of rooms make the house quite unsuitable for any public purpose, and to place it in a proper state of repair would involve a very substantial expenditure.

The Public Works Department is also responsible for the maintenance of water supplies and the Jamestown drainage system. Both these services have been satisfactory throughout the year.

The Department is also associated with the maintenance of the public telephone system. The conformation of the Island makes internal communication a matter of the greatest difficulty. Throughout its long history the Island has always maintained various devices for internal communication, and the modern telephone system meets an important public need.

XIII.—JUSTICE, POLICE, AND PRISONS.

Subject to all local Ordinances and Orders in force, the law of the Colony is so much of the law of England for the time being as is suitable and appropriate as far as local circumstances permit.

The Supreme Court of St. Helena, which is a Court of Record, was established by Order in Council of 13th February, 1839. Subsequent Orders extended its jurisdiction to Matrimonial and Divorce Causes. By Order in Council of the 5th of April, 1852, the Governor, in the absence of the Chief Justice, may act as Chief Justice, or appoint some other person to act. The Acting Chief Justice may be assisted at his discretion by Assessors who must be Members of the Executive Council or Justices of the Peace.

There were two civil cases before the Supreme Court during the year.

Summary jurisdiction is exercised by the Magistrate and Justices of the Peace. Ninety-two cases were reported to the Police during the year. In 77 cases action was taken in the Court resulting in 23 convictions.

The Small Debts Court, which has jurisdiction up to sums not exceeding £25, is established by Ordinance No. 2 of 1905. Five cases were brought before the Court during the year as compared with seven in 1933.

Gaol.—Fifteen persons were committed to prison during the year as compared with 14 in 1933; the daily average being 0·6 as compared with 0·8 in 1933.

Police.—There have been no criminal cases of importance.

XIV.—LEGISLATION.

Four Ordinances were passed during the year, of which the most important was Ordinance No. 1, the Telephone Ordinance.

XV.—PUBLIC FINANCE AND TAXATION.

Revenue and Expenditure.

The Revenue collected during the year, including a grant-in-aid of £2,500, amounted to £24,474, being £1,103 in excess of the estimate, and showing an increase of £5,926 over the revenue of the previous year.

This increase of revenue was mainly due to large Post Office and Ascension receipts, namely £5,310 and £2,566 respectively more than the figure of the previous year, owing to the exceptionally large sales of the St. Helena Centenary issue of Postage Stamps and the new issue of Ascension Stamps to dealers outside the Colony.

There was also a noticeable increase under Customs amounting to £384, due principally to the importation of a consignment of petrol and paraffin, of which there was no importation during the previous year.

The following table shows the revenue and expenditure of the Colony for the past five years :—

Year.	*Revenue.*	*Grants by Colonial Development Fund.*	*Grants-in-aid by His Majesty's Treasury.*	*Total Revenue.*	*Expenditure.*
	£	£	£	£	£
1930 ...	12,570	—	6,000	18,570	25,820
1931 ...	11,940	6,340	7,000	25,820	27,109
1932 ...	13,817	560	13,500	27,877	18,906
1933 ...	13,548	—	5,000	18,548	18,617
1934 ...	21,974	—	2,500	24,474	23,792

The Revenue for the year 1934 as compared with the preceding year is summarized hereunder :—

	1933.	1934.
	£	£
Customs	4,754	5,138
Port and Marine	1,471	1,503
Licences, Taxes, etc.	619	617
Fees of Court or Office and Reimbursements	735	671
Post Office	911	6,221
Revenue from Government Properties	1,119	1,140
Interest	627	619
Miscellaneous	383	573
Ascension	2,926	5,492
Sale of Land	3	—
	13,548	21,974
Grant-in-Aid	5,000	2,500
	£18,548	£24,474

The Expenditure for the year as compared with the preceding year is as under :—

	1933.	1934.
	£	£
Pensions and Gratuities	1,059	1,060
Governor and Legal	1,097	1,145
Secretariat	1,021	1,011
Treasury, Customs, Port and Marine	914	817
Post Office	412	1,756
Public Health	1,997	2,538
Education	845	998
Agriculture and Forestry	560	924
Police and Gaol	649	694
Public Works Department and Recurrent	3,324	3,167
Miscellaneous	1,424	2,358
Ascension	2,035	2,645
Public Works Extraordinary ...	136	1,095
Relief of Unemployed (Flax Subsidy)	3,119	3,584
Colonial Development Fund—		
Reconstruction of Roads ...	—	—
Improvement to Telephone System	25	—
	£18,617	£23,792

A statement of the Assets and Liabilities is appended :—

	£ s. d.	£ s. d.
Assets—		
Cash—		
Local Treasury	3,523 8 0	
Crown Agents	495 16 3	
Remittances in transit to Crown Agents	230 6 3	
		4,249 10 6
Advances—		
Postmaster	104 3 2	
Other Advances	757 16 9	
		861 19 11
Investments—		
Savings Bank	19,403 14 5	
Alexander Bequest	1,114 2 3	
Red Cross Society	142 12 9	
Botley's Fund	5 19 1	
		20,666 8 6
Flax Mill and Machinery ...		661 1 1
Unallocated Stores		893 17 9
		£27,332 17 9
Liabilities—		
Deposits—		
Savings Bank	21,199 11 3	
Postmaster	2 15 1	
Alexander Bequest	1,114 2 3	
Red Cross Society	142 12 9	
Botley's Fund	5 19 1	
Alexander Bequest (Interest Account)	13 16 3	
Telephone Fund	92 18 1	
Other Deposits	621 18 7	
		23,193 13 4
Bills of Exchange		827 15 11
Excess of Assets over Liabilities (Surplus)		3,311 8 6
		£27,332 17 9

Public Debt.

During the years 1930-31 the sum of £475 was loaned from the Colonial Development Fund for the improvement of the telephone system. This sum was loaned free of interest for one year and thereafter at 2½ per cent., and is repayable by annuities of 5 per cent., the principal outstanding at 31st December, 1934, being £450 19s. 1d.

Taxation.

The principal sources of taxation and the yield during the year 1934 are as follows:—

	£
Customs—	
Import Duties	5,138
Port and Wharfage Dues—	
Shipping Dues	251
Wharfage Dues	1,251
Licences—	
Carriages, Carts and Horses	58
Motor cars and Lorries	166
Boats	122
Fire Arms and Game	39
Liquor	126
Rates—	
Water	163

There were no changes in taxation during the year.

XVI.—MISCELLANEOUS.

Lands.

By Royal Charter of 16th December, 1673, the East India Company became possessed of St. Helena as "Lords of the Manor to be held in free and common soccage, in capite not by knights' service."

The Company's occupation lasted until 24th February, 1836, by which date the land of the Island had been distributed in seven "categories of tenure," classified as follows:—

1. Land sold as freehold subject to faith and allegiance, and obedience to laws and constitutions.

2. Land sold as freehold subject to an annual ground rental of 3d. per foot; chiefly in Jamestown.

3. Land granted for building purposes on 21 years' renewable building leases.

4. Land leased as "permanent tenure" on a quit rent assessed by a Grand Jury in 1828; with a right of resumption by the Government whenever the public service might require on payment of the value to be assessed by a jury.

5. Land held as free on the same conditions as in No. 1; and in addition subject to the annual payment of 1s. per acre in conformity with the Company's by-laws, which related to the liability for military service.

6. Land leased on lives; renewable on the death of the nominee; a sum to be paid to Government on nomination of the new life.

7. Land leased at varying rates, terms, and periods.

In addition to the above there was

(*a*) Land in occupation by the Company, e.g., Longwood and Plantation Farms.

(*b*) Undeveloped or uncultivable land known as "Company's Waste Land."

When the Crown assumed the direct administration of the Island in 1836, the tenures inherited from the East India Company were not disturbed. But in 1843, changes were made which revolutionized the system of land tenure throughout the Island. By Proclamation No. 43 of the 7th of August of that year, an offer was made to tenants of land to commute their holdings to freehold on the following terms:—

(*a*) Categories 2, 4 and 5 on payment of 10 years' rental.

(*b*) Categories 3 and 6 on payment of 12½ years' rental.

Large numbers of properties were so commuted, and this process, with a hundred years' usage, has resulted in the following classification which is recognized throughout the Island:—

1. Freehold.
2. Permanent Tenure (subject to quit rent).
3. Freehold (subject to quit and ground rents).
4. Crown Lease.
5. Government Property.
6. Imperial Government Property.
7. Crown Waste.

The area of the Island is approximately 30,000 acres of which 8,600 acres are regarded as cultivable.

Of the cultivable area approximately 4,741 acres are owned by the Government, but of this figure approximately 2,126 acres are permanent tenure and "free" properties.

The distribution of land is as follows :—

	Number of Holdings.
Under 10 acres	414
Over 10 and under 50	57
Over 50 and under 100	9
Over 100 and under 500	7
Over 500 and under 1,000	2
Over 1,000	Nil.

The only legislation dealing with land is " The Conveyancing and Registration Ordinance, 1893," which simplifies conveyancing and provides for registration.

There has been only one transaction of any importance during the year.

General.

The centenary of the transfer of the Island from the East India Company to the Crown was observed on the 23rd of April, the 22nd being on a Sunday, when the Union Jack was hoisted at Ladder Hill Barracks, and a Salute of 21 guns fired. A guard of honour from H.M.S. *Rochester* was mounted, and the ceremony was widely attended.

On 5th May the completion of the reconstructed portions of Longwood Old House and the inauguration of the Longwood Museum was marked by a reception given by M. Colin, the French Consular Agent.

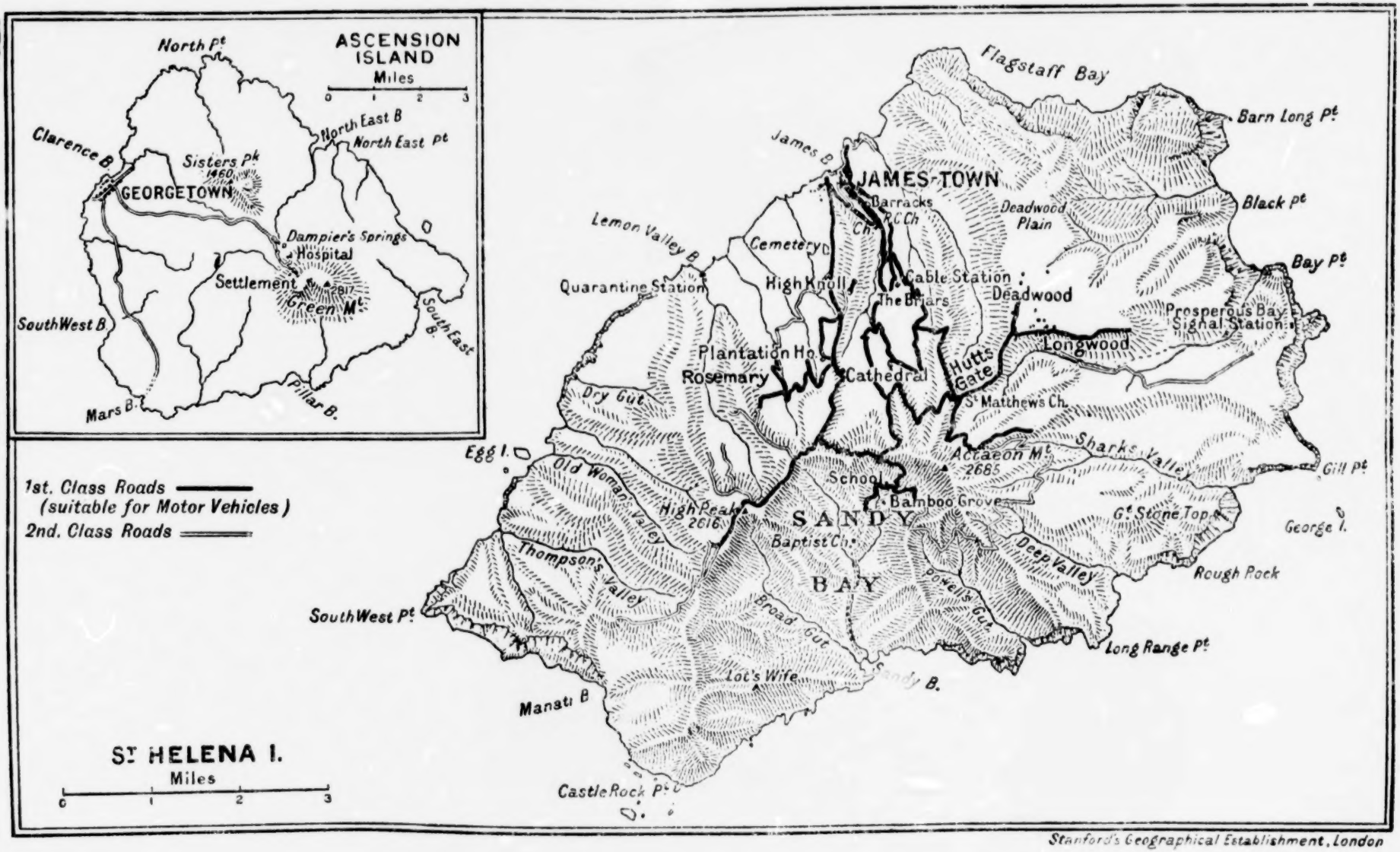
It is very much to be hoped that this Museum will receive the support of those to whom the historical associations of Longwood make a special appeal. There could be no place more suitable than the house in which the Emperor Napoleon died, for the deposit and care of objects connected with his exile and death, and it is of interest that the first unofficial presentations to the Museum were relics of great value and importance generously given by two prominent residents of the Island.

APPENDIX.

Books on St. Helena of General Interest.

Title.	*Publishers or Agents.*	*Price.*
"A History of the Island of St. Helena", 1808, by T. H. Brook. 2nd Edition, 1824.	Publishers to East India Company.	—
"St. Helena, 1875", by J. C. Mellis.	L. Reeve & Co., London.	£2 2*s.*
"St. Helena—the Historic Island", 1903, by E. L. Jackson.	Ward, Lock & Co., Ltd., London.	—
*"Napoleon in Exile", 1915, by Norwood Young (Two Volumes).	Stanley Paul & Co., London.	£1 12*s.*
"St. Helena Who's Who", 1919, by Arnold Chaplin.	A. L. Humphreys, London.	—
"Tracts relative to the Island of St. Helena", by Beatson, London, 1816.		
"Extracts from Records of St. Helena", by H. R. Janisch, C.M.G., Jamestown, 1885.		
"History of St. Helena", English Historical Review, by Sir William Foster, July, 1919.		
"Report on the Agricultural Resources of St. Helena", by D. Morris. Reprinted 1906. (Cd. 3248, Colonial Report Misc. No. 38.)	His Majesty's Stationery Office.	3½*d.*
"Geological Notes on St. Helena, by various writers, with remarks on the Economic Geology of that Island, and Geological Map", by Sir Albert Kitson, C.M.G., C.B.E., April, 1931. (Colonial No. 66.)	His Majesty's Stationery Office.	1*s.* 3*d.*
"Report on the Fisheries of St. Helena", by J. T. Cunningham, M.A., F.Z.S., 1910. (Cd. 4998, Colonial Report Misc. No. 69.)	His Majesty's Stationery Office.	1½*d.*
"Report on the Marine Molluscan Fauna of the Island of St. Helena", by Edgar A. Smith, 1890. Proceedings of Zoological Society of London, 1890, Part II, pp. 247–317.		
"St. Helene", by Octave Aubry.	Flammarion, Paris.	25 francs.

* This work contains a bibliography of 172 publications referring to the captivity of the Emperor Napoleon in St. Helena.



Stanford's Geographical Establishment, London

(32209—48) Wt. 1999—3412 625 1/36 P. St. G. 377/1

Reports, etc., of Imperial and Colonial Interest

MIGRATION.

Report to the Secretary of State for Dominion Affairs of the Inter-Departmental Committee on Migration Policy. [Cmd. 4689.] 1*s.* 6*d.* (1*s.* 8*d.*)

MALTA.

Report of Royal Commission, 1931. [Cmd. 3993.] 3*s.* 6*d.* (3*s.* 11*d.*).
Minutes of Evidence. [Colonial No. 68.] 5*s.* (5*s.* 9*d.*).

IMPERIAL CONFERENCE, 1930.

Summary of Proceedings. [Cmd. 3717.] 2*s.* (2*s.* 2*d.*).
Appendices to the Summary of Proceedings. [Cmd. 3718.] 4*s.* (4*s.* 4*d.*).
Report of the Conference on Standardisation. (Including Resolutions adopted by the Imperial Conference). [Cmd. 3716.] 3*d.* (3½*d.*).

COLONIAL OFFICE CONFERENCE, 1930.

Summary of Proceedings. [Cmd. 3628.] 2*s.* (2*s.* 2*d.*).
Appendices to the Summary of Proceedings. [Cmd. 3629.] 3*s.* (3*s.* 3*d.*).

KENYA.

Native Affairs Department Annual Report for 1932. 3*s.* (3*s.* 4*d.*).
Report by the Financial Commissioner (Lord Moyne) on Certain Questions in Kenya. May, 1932. [Cmd. 4093.] 2*s.* (2*s.* 2*d.*).

KENYA, UGANDA, AND THE TANGANYIKA TERRITORY.

Railway Rates and Finance. Report by Mr. Roger Gibb, September, 1932. [Cmd. 4235.] 1*s.* 6*d.* (1*s.* 7*d.*).

TANGANYIKA TERRITORY.

Report by Sir Sydney Armitage Smith, K.B.E., C.B., on a Financial Mission. [Cmd. 4182.] 2*s.* 6*d.* (2*s.* 8*d.*).
East African Agricultural Research Station, Amani. Sixth Annual Report, 1933–34. [Colonial No. 100.] 1*s.* (1*s.* 1*d.*).

BECHUANALAND PROTECTORATE.

Financial and Economic Position. Report of Commission, March, 1933. [Cmd. 4368.] 3*s.* 6*d.* (3*s.* 9*d.*).

SWAZILAND.

Financial and Economic Situation. Report of Commission. [Cmd. 4114.] 2*s.* 6*d.* (2*s.* 9*d.*).

MALAYA.

Report of Brigadier-General Sir S. H. Wilson, G.C.M.G., K.C.B., K.B.E., on his visit during 1932. [Cmd. 4276.] 1*s.* (1*s.* 1*d.*).

SEYCHELLES.

Financial Situation. Report of Commission, July, 1933. [Colonial No. 90.] 1*s.* 3*d.* (1*s.* 5*d.*).

MAURITIUS.

Financial Situation. Report of Commission, December, 1931. [Cmd. 4034.] 4*s.* 6*d.* (4*s.* 10*d.*).

WEST INDIES.

Report of the Closer Union Commission. (Leeward Islands, Windward Islands, Trinidad and Tobago.) [Cmd. 4383.] 1*s.* (1*s.* 1*d.*).
Report of a Commission appointed to consider problems of Secondary and Primary Education in Trinidad, Barbados, Leeward Islands, and Windward Islands. [Colonial No. 79.] 2*s.* (2*s.* 2*d.*).

BRITISH HONDURAS.

Financial and Economic Position. Report of Commissioner, March, 1934. [Cmd. 4586.] 4*s.* 6*d.* (4*s.* 10*d.*).

BRITISH GUIANA.

Financial Situation. Report of Commission, June, 1931. [Cmd. 3938.] 1*s.* (1*s.* 2*d.*).

THE LEEWARD ISLANDS AND ST. LUCIA.

Report by Sir Sydney Armitage Smith, K.B.E., C.B., on a Financial Mission, October, 1931. [Cmd. 3996.] 2*s.* (2*s.* 2*d.*).

PALESTINE.

Report on Immigration, Land Settlement and Development, by Sir John Hope Simpson, C.I.E., 1930. [Cmd. 3686.] 3*s.* (3*s.* 3*d.*).
Appendix to Report, containing Maps. [Cmd. 3687.] 2*s.* (2*s.* 3*d.*).

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ANNUAL REPORT ON THE SOCIAL AND ECONOMIC PROGRESS OF THE PEOPLE OF ST. HELENA FOR 1935

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I.—GEOGRAPHY, CLIMATE, AND HISTORY.

The Island of St. Helena, about 10½ miles long and 6½ broad, lies in the South Atlantic Ocean in latitude 15° 55′ South and longitude 5° 42′ West. It was discovered by João da Nova, probably in May, 1502, on his return voyage to Lisbon from India. Until 1588, when Cavendish visited it, the situation of the Island was kept a secret, and it then served as a place of refuge and refreshment for the vessels of all nations until 1659 when it was annexed by the East India Company. With the exception of a few months when it was captured in 1672 by the Dutch and recaptured in 1673 by Sir Richard Munden, it remained in possession of the Company until the 22nd of April, 1834, when it was brought under the direct government of the Crown by the Government of India Act of 1833.

The History of the Island under the Crown.

Although the Crown assumed the direct government of St. Helena on the 22nd of April, 1834, it did not occupy the Island until the 24th of February, 1836, when Major-General Middlemore took possession of it in the name of His Majesty King William IV.

With the inauguration of government by the Crown, St. Helena was to enter upon its greatest period of prosperity. The first efforts of the Crown were directed to making the civil administration pay for itself, whilst the garrison remained a charge upon the Imperial Exchequer. The great changes that took place in St. Helena during the first ten years of the Crown's administration are but little realized to-day. As a result of the development of the Eastern trade, the Island became a port of call on one of the world's greatest trade routes, and the harbour was filled with more ships than ever before in its history. Never again, as the figures appended show, did the harbour of St. Helena bring such prosperity to its people :—

Ships calling at St. Helena.

1805	163
1823	193
1834	475
1840	779
1845	1,458
1850	937
1855	1,044
1860	1,044
1865	850
1870	807
1875	605
1880	564
1890	211
1935	44

It is probably also true to say that with the exception of the Napoleonic period, never has so much money been spent in the Island as between the years 1836-50. The military expenditure was in the neighbourhood of £40,000, and in 1840 a further expansion of local trade occurred with the introduction of the Liberated African Establishment at Rupert's, formed for the purpose of receiving freed slaves from the West Coast of Africa. Throughout this period the cost of the civil administration amounted to about £25,000 to which the Imperial Government made a grant-in-aid in the following amounts :—

Grants-in-aid, St. Helena.

	£
1836	35,000
1837	30,000
1838	18,000
1839	9,000
1842	4,000
1845	2,510
1848	5,216

These grants terminated in 1850 by which date the Island had become self-supporting, and with two exceptions, they were not renewed, as a permanent feature of the administration, until after the opening of the Suez Canal.

In 1869 the Naval Squadron was withdrawn; the remains of the African Establishment abolished; and the garrison reduced by over 300 men. The effect was immediate. Imports fell from £122,000 to £84,000, Customs revenue from £15,000 to £10,000, and St. Helena became bankrupt. When the Canal was opened the trade routes were diverted; but it was not until 20 years later, as the table above shows, that the Suez Canal finally killed the commerce of the Island.

Since the year 1880, the Island must be regarded as having attempted to live on an inadequate pension. In the course of this period the population was nearly halved as a result of very substantial emigration, and without this relief it is difficult to see how the Island could have survived. Up to the year 1905, 200 ships a year and a small garrison kept the people alive. In the next four years the ships were to be reduced to an average of 50, and the garrison removed. In 1907, a Parliamentary grant was made for the introduction of the flax industry which has been the main support of the population for upwards of 25 years. A rapidly increasing population and the absence of employment for the majority, now presents the local Government with the same problems that perplexed its predecessors in 1870.

Ascension.

A short history and description of the Island of Ascension by the Resident Magistrate is included at the end of this Report.

A note on the climate of St. Helena and Ascension will be found in the Report for 1929—Colonial Report, No. 1,475. The same Report also contains a note on the history of the Islands under the East India Company.

II.—GOVERNMENT.

By an Act of William IV, dated the 28th of August, 1833, the Island of St. Helena, as from the 22nd of April, 1834, was transferred from the East India Company and became vested in the Crown.

Provision for the authority and appointment of Governor, for the establishment of a Council to assist the Governor and for the making and promulgation of laws, was made by a Royal Order in Council dated the 12th of October, 1835. This Order was revoked by an Order dated the 27th of July, 1863, and fresh provision was made.

The Executive Council as it exists at present was established by " The St. Helena Order in Council, 1929 ", revoking previous Orders. By Instructions issued on the 5th of June, 1929, it is provided that the Council shall consist of the Senior Military Officer in Command of regular troops in the Island and of the person holding the substantive appointment of Government Secretary of the Island, as *ex officio* Members, and of such other persons as may from time to time be appointed. Provision was also included for the appointment of Extraordinary Members on special occasions.

At the present time there are three unofficial Members of Council.

Subject to the reservation of power for legislation by Parliament and by the Privy Council, the Order of 1863 provides for the making of laws by the Governor. It is also laid down, under the " Interpretation and General Law Ordinance, 1895 ", that " a copy of the draft of every Ordinance shall be affixed to a board in front of the Court House for the inspection of the Public for one month before the passing thereof; provided always that in any case in which the Governor-in-Council thinks it urgently necessary to dispense with such public notification . . . he may do so."

Ascension.

By Letters Patent dated the 12th of September, 1922, Ascension became a Dependency of St. Helena, and it was provided that the Governor and Executive Council of St. Helena should have the same powers in relation to Ascension as they possess in relation to St. Helena. The local Manager of Cable and Wireless Limited is appointed as Resident Magistrate and is a Member of the Executive Council of St. Helena.

III.—POPULATION.

At the time of its discovery in 1502, St. Helena was uninhabited. From 1502 until 1659 it was used by the ships of all nations as a place where travellers and seamen might recuperate, and where fresh water and supplies might be obtained. In 1659 the East India Company sent John Dutton with a few soldiers and followers to annex the Island and form a settlement. These persons constituted the original European settlement of the Island, which from time to time was added to by more settlers and soldiers from England. Slaves from Africa and Asia, and in particular from Madagascar, were introduced, and in 1810 there was a large importation of Chinese workmen. In 1840 there was a considerable influx of liberated African slaves, and a few years later the St. Helena Regiment was permanently stationed in the Island. The men of this regiment were given certain facilities in regard to land, and many of the men formed associations with the islanders.

The Island population to-day is, therefore, largely of mixed origin. The language of the Island has always been English; but the exceptional English environment is not generally realized by those unacquainted with its people. All St. Helenians receive a primary education and their homes, social life and outlook follows entirely the English tradition.

The population as revealed by the vital statistics shows a rapid and a substantial increase. In previous decades a great measure of relief was obtained from emigration to South Africa; but this source of employment is no longer available as the Island people are unable to compete with the cheaper and more powerful coloured labour. Their physique is slight, and, by nature and habit, they are deft and polite, and admirably suited to light trades and employment and domestic service.

The population as ascertained by the census taken in the year 1931 is classified as under :—

	Males.	*Females.*	*Total.*
Islanders	1,825	2,026	3,851
Other British Residents	77	65	142
Other Nationals	2	—	2
	1,904	2,091	3,995

The distribution of the population is shown in the following table :—

District.	*Males.*	*Females.*	*Total.*
Jamestown, including the Briars and Rupert's Valley	706	823	1,529
Half Tree Hollow and Ladder Hill (including Garrison)	227	263	490
St. Paul's	157	173	330
High Point, Farm Lodge, Rosemary and Cleughs Plain	140	155	295
Blue Hill	140	124	264
Sandy Bay...	143	146	289
Longwood and Hutt's Gate	391	407	798
	1,904	2,091	3,995

The estimated population on 31st December, 1935, was 4,318.

Births and Deaths, 1932-1935.

	1932.	*1933.*	*1934.*	*1935.*
Births	152	116	101	150
Deaths	58	68	47	45
Infant mortality per 1,000 births	131·5	172·4	138·6	80·00

Still-births (not included in above)	7
Illegitimate births (included in above)	33
Deaths of infants under 1 year old	12

The population of Ascension as ascertained by the census taken in the year 1931 is classified as under :—

St. Helenians	152
Other British Residents	36
	188

The population on 31st December, 1935, was :—

St. Helenians	110
Other British Residents	47
	157

IV.—HEALTH.

The medical establishment of the Island during the year consisted of :—

Senior Medical Officer
Medical Officer
Dental Surgeon
Sister-in-Charge, Civil Hospital
Three Probationers.

The general health of the Island has been fairly good. Investigations into the aetiology of St. Helenian beriberi have been pursued during the year, and 31 new cases have been observed. A detailed report on the diseases that occur in St. Helena is now being prepared.

There was a considerable number of cases of animal tetanus during the year, and two human cases occurred in Island boys. The first case was admitted with well developed tetanus and died; the second developed tetanus while in Hospital and was saved owing to the timely use of massive doses of antitoxin. Antitetanic serum is now given as a routine in all cases of injury where there is the least risk of the wound being infected with soil.

There was also an outbreak of chicken-pox, and cases were seen amongst the school children during May, June and July. This outbreak can scarcely be said to have assumed epidemic proportions and none of the patients was seriously ill. It is interesting to note that one case of *herpes zoster* in a European male was noted in June, while chicken-pox was still prevalent.

The school children were all medically inspected during the year, and routine dental inspections continued.

The Civil Hospital in Jamestown has 14 beds. During the year, 6,004 out-patients were seen at the hospital, and there were 179 in-patients. There is but little surgery in St. Helena, the bulk of

the surgical work done consisting of minor operations and dental extractions. Two major operations were performed during the year.

The two dressing stations in the country at Sandy Bay and Hutt's Gate have been visited weekly throughout the year.

Vaccination of all children is carried out under the Vaccination Ordinance of 1854, and smallpox has never established a footing in the Island.

The Poor House, which is under the management of a Poor Relief Board, was visited weekly by the Senior Medical Officer. The health of the 18 inmates has been good. The Lunatic Asylum which is run in conjunction with the Poor House contains seven inmates. It also has been visited weekly by the Senior Medical Officer. The health of the inmates during the year has been good.

All ships calling at the Island are boarded by the Port Medical Officer who gives pratique unless the ship is infected. One infected ship called on 1st September, 1935, and a case of malignant diphtheria died on board this vessel, while she was at anchor in Jamestown roadstead.

V.—HOUSING.

The general housing of the people is now the subject of the most anxious consideration. There is an urgent need for cottages in the country districts and tenements in Jamestown.

The narrow valley in which Jamestown is situated permits of little expansion of the town area, and the inhabitants are reluctant to leave it for localities at higher altitudes. There is much slum property, and lack of funds make it impossible to construct tenements on the few sites available. In the country districts there are few with resources sufficient to build themselves cottages, and in any case there is a shortage of suitable land on which these could be erected. The construction of cottages, with between one or two acres of good agricultural land would help materially in relieving much of the present poverty and distress, but the only land available is little better than scrub and rock.

The only legislation dealing with overcrowding is a provision in the Public Health Ordinance, 1869, which gives certain powers to the Board of Health. The Board, not unnaturally, is reluctant to exercise its powers in the improvement of houses when the occupiers have no means and there is nowhere else for them to live.

The difficulties encountered in the construction of houses and, indeed, in all building operations are not generally understood. There is an abundance of building material, road metal, and surfacing material, for the proof of which the casual observer has only to see the extensive fortifications and mile after mile of stone wall; but whilst there is lime, there is nothing to burn it with, and there

are no bricks. Limestone was first burnt in the Island in about 1708, but so fast was the consumption of wood, that native ebony and redwood forests were destroyed, and the process could only continue by the importation of coal from England. Building stone requires to be cut and faced, and the cost of skilled labour together with high transport charges, makes the cost of all construction abnormally expensive. The use of bricks, therefore, would be a great economic boon to the people. The clay of the Island, however, has no quartz sand in its composition, and the lack of this binding material makes the bricks crack during burning. Should it be possible to overcome this handicap, the problem of fuel still awaits solution. Bricks and tiles have, however, been burnt in the past, and in many cottages to-day there can be seen tiles painted by Dr. James Arnott, Medical Superintendent, between 1821 and 1834, and burnt under his supervision.

VI.—PRODUCTION.

Although St. Helena has a cultivable area of 8,600 acres, and is a fertile island in which almost every crop can be made to grow, it is remarkable that there should be little agricultural production other than that of New Zealand hemp (*Phormium tenax*).

The production of potatoes, vegetables, and a very small quantity of fruit, for internal consumption and the supply of passing mail steamers, are the only other important agricultural pursuits in the Island.

The principal reasons for this lack of development of the Island resources lie in the difficulties in finding markets for the existing Island crops, and in finding new products for which an export market is available.

The one productive plant, *Phormium tenax*, which is grown in any quantity in grown principally in those areas which are unsuitable for other crops.

In the past two years much experimental work has been done in the development of agricultural and horticultural products. Development of an export trade in potatoes to the Christmas market in London shows some promise, and there is now reason for supposing that a continuation of these experiments on a wider basis and more extensive scale would be amply justified. The experimental distillation of geranium oil has been the subject of research in the Imperial Institute, and again there is some ground for supposing that the subject might repay more detailed investigation.

Perhaps the most attractive experiment now proceeding is the export of lily bulbs (*Lilium longiflorum*). It is fortunate that these bulbs flower in England at a season when no others are available. A small consignment sent to Kew Gardens made " a magnificent display " at the Royal Horticultral Society's Autumn Show. The lily is common throughout the Island, and a large consignment has

been sent to England for disposal. The development of a lily bulb trade is, perhaps, the most important experiment that has taken place in the Island in recent years.

Fibre Production.—The fibre market (as a result of the European situation) improved during the course of the year. The production of hemp is the only industry in the Island and five mills have been in operation throughout the year.

Particulars of the production, export, and value of fibre and tow are appended :—

1935.	*Produced.*	*Exported.*	*Average price per ton. London.*
	Tons.	*Tons.*	£ s. d.
Fibre	578	857	13 15 0
Tow...	220	319	9 10 0

Horticulture.—The development of trade with passing steamers shows marked improvement, and the opportunities which exist for extending this trade are now apparent.

Particulars of the value of produce supplied are appended :—

	£
1932	339
1933	318
1934	368
1935	427

It is estimated that, if the demand can be met, the value for 1936 should reach £1,000.

Ascension.

At Green Mountain Cable and Wireless Limited possess a farm for the maintenance of imported animals, and gardens for the cultivation of vegetables. At the end of the year the stock consisted of 26 cattle, 450 sheep, and some pigs.

VII.—COMMERCE.

The following were the imports and exports for the year compared with 1934 :—

	Imports.	*Exports.*
	£	£
1934	33,476	8,949
1935	29,824	13,967
Increase or decrease ...	− 3,652	+ 4,018

Imports.

There was a decrease in the value of imports principally under wholly or mainly manufactured articles, the principal decreases being in the importation of motor cars, motor lorries and hardware. A moderate decrease occurred in imports of raw materials and articles mainly unmanufactured.

The following table shows the value of the principal articles imported during the years 1934 and 1935 together with the decreases or increases :—

	1934.	*1935.*	*Decrease — Increase +*
	£	£	£
Provisions	14,308	14,276	— 32
Drapery	3,264	3,352	+ 88
Motor cars and lorries	1,697	259	— 1,438
Petrol and oil	1,769	2,069	+ 300
Hardware	2,814	2,090	— 724
Beer, wines and spirits	1,229	1,390	+ 161
Tobacco and cigarettes	963	932	— 31

The undermentioned quantities are also recorded :—

		1934.	*1935.*	*Decrease — Increase +*
Beer, wines and spirits ...	gal.	4,919	6,588	+ 1,669
Tobacco and cigarettes ...	lb.	5,745	5,180	— 565

The countries of origin were as follows :—

	1934.	*1935.*
	£	£
United Kingdom	22,129	18,964
South Africa	6,345	2,303
Rest of Empire	—	4,062
United States of America	2,497	2,147
Other Foreign Countries	2,505	2,348

Importations from South Africa consisted mainly of grain and meal, drink, tobacco and coal.

Importations from the United States of America consisted mainly of petrol and oil valued at £1,716.

Importations from the Argentine consisted mainly of foodstuffs valued at £636.

Importations from other foreign countries consisted mainly of foodstuffs, drink and hardware.

Exports.

The increase in the value of exports is accounted for by an increase in the market value of fibre during the year. The payment of subsidy to millers was continued up to the end of October, 1935, as a measure of unemployment relief.

Exports of these products were as follows :—

	1934.		*1935.*	
	Tons.	£	*Tons.*	£
Fibre	568	5,759	857	9,782
Tow	447	2,457	319	2,005
Rope and twine ...	25	498	11	237

The distribution of the total exports of the Colony was as follows :—

	1934.	*1935.*
	£	£
United Kingdom	8,446	12,195
South Africa	503	1,602
Argentine	—	170

VIII.—WAGES AND COST OF LIVING.

Wages for skilled and semi-skilled workmen vary from 2s. to 3s. 6d. per day.

The Government wage for adult unskilled labour is 2s. per day amounting to 12s. for a week of 45 hours, the half-day on Saturday counting as a full day.

In the flax mills the average daily rate for men is slightly under 1s. 9d. for a nine-hour day. The wages paid to women are slightly under 1s. per day.

In the rope works the average wage for men is 12s. per week, and for women 5s.

The number of persons employed in the flax mills is 247 and in the rope works 16.

In domestic service the monthly wage with board and lodging for housemaids varies from 10s. to £2, for cooks from 30s. to £2, and for male servants from 30s. to £4 15s.

The cost of living varies greatly. Meat, including fowls, is obtainable at 1s. per lb.; fish is very cheap, but the supply is extremely limited and scarce in the country districts. Eggs vary according to season from 1s. 6d. to 2s. per dozen, fresh butter is 3s. per lb., and imported butter 1s. 8d. per lb.; fresh milk is 5d. per imperial pint, and the price of fresh vegetables varies with the supply which is very limited at certain seasons. Rice which forms the staple article of diet of St. Helenians is 2d. per lb. and potatoes vary throughout the year from 8d. to 2s. per gallon of 7 lb. On account of lack of communications and of the freight rates the cost of imported groceries is higher than in the United Kingdom.

From time to time accommodation is available for visitors, and St. Helena has attractions as a place of residence for those who seek a congenial climate and quietude. It is estimated that two people could live comfortably and in full enjoyment of all the Island has to offer on £500 to £550 a year. With a more limited range of activity two people could live on considerably less.

IX.—EDUCATION AND WELFARE INSTITUTIONS.

The educational system in St. Helena consists of eight primary schools, a continuation class for pupil teachers and others, and private tuition.

Of the primary schools three are under Government direction, two in Jamestown for boys and girls respectively and one in the country. Three are administered by the Trustees of the Hussey Charity. Of the two remaining schools, one belongs to the St. Helena Benevolent Society, a Society founded in 1814 for the care and education of the Island poor, the other at Blue Hill was founded over 30 years ago by the late Bishop Holbech for the children of a remote part of the Island.

All the five non-Government schools receive Government assistance which it was found necessary in the year under review to increase, Hussey Charity from £100 to £120, Sandy Bay from £15 to £40, Blue Hill from £30 to £45. These increases became necessary as none of the schools concerned, even with the utmost economy, was paying its way and education was suffering for the lack of sufficient material.

Many useful improvements were carried out in the course of the year by the Public Works Department at the Hutt's Gate (Hussey Charity) school. These consisted of a new class room and reconditioning the remainder of the building. The work will be completed by the addition of a verandah. This school (as well as those at Sandy Bay and Half Tree Hollow) suffers from a serious lack of furniture as school equipment and furnishing has not kept pace during the past 30 years with the increased attendance.

The work of all the schools is under constant inspection and supervision by the Superintendent of Education who also takes Pupil Teachers for a four year course in secondary school work.

Welfare Institutions.—There are no public welfare institutions in the Island. The absence is in some measure compensated for by the local Friendly Societies of which a note will be found in the Annual Report for 1921—Colonial Report, No. 1568. The particulars of the Societies are appended below :—

ST. HELENA FRIENDLY SOCIETIES.

Men.

Name.	*Membership.*	*Invested Funds.*
		£
Ancient Order of Foresters	352	1,493
Mechanics' Society	418	864
Working Men's Christian Association ...	320	466
Poor Society	425	4,033

Women.

Church Provident Society for Women ...	493	978

These Societies offer medical and sick benefits and the subscription varies from 3d. to 1s. per week. The fees are a heavy drain on the meagre wages earned generally in the Island, and the fact is of importance in a general study of local economic conditions.

X.—COMMUNICATIONS AND TRANSPORT.

There is regular communication once a month with England and South Africa by the Union-Castle Intermediate steamers. In addition, an American steamer of the American-South African Line called on four occasions. The vessels which called during the year were as follows :—

British vessels	30
British warships	4
American vessel—4 visits	4
Other foreign vessels	6
	44

Sixty miles of roads are maintained by the Public Works Department, and although grades are steep and in some places narrow, the roads of the Island compare very favourably with those in other countries.

Seventy-three motor-cars and lorries are registered and licensed.

There is no wireless station in St. Helena, but there is a cable station with communication to all parts of the world.

The Empire Short-wave Broadcasting Service is received well in the Island.

There is regular postal communication each month between the Colony and England and South Africa. Mails are also made up as other occasions present themselves.

XI.—BANKING, CURRENCY, AND WEIGHTS AND MEASURES.

The Government Savings Bank is the only banking institution in the Colony.

The aggregate balances of depositors' accounts during the last five years were as follows :—

Year.	*Balance of Deposits at 31st December.*
	£
1931	18,770
1932	20,620
1933	20,958
1934	21,200
1935	22,527

The total number of depositors on 31st December, 1935, was 229 as compared with 211 on the same date in 1934.

The invested portion of the Savings Bank deposits at the end of the year is represented by Stock of the mean market value of £22,366.

By the St. Helena Coinage Order, 1925, all coins which under the Coinage Acts of 1870 and 1891 are legal tender in the United Kingdom, and all silver coins which under the Coinage Act, 1922, are legal tender in the Union of South Africa, are legal tender in the Island of St. Helena.

By the Weights and Measures Ordinance, 1905, the weights and measures for the time being lawfully in use in the United Kingdom and no others are to be used in St. Helena.

XII.—PUBLIC WORKS.

Great improvements have been observed in the administration of the Public Works Department, which has now been reorganized under the charge of a Clerk of Works. The Department has also been actively concerned in various road works undertaken as a measure of relief; and also maintains the drainage, water, and telephone system.

XIII.—JUSTICE, POLICE, AND PRISONS.

Subject to all local Ordinances and Orders in force, the laws of the Colony are so much of the law of England for the time being as is suitable and appropriate as far as local circumstances permit.

The Supreme Court of St. Helena, which is a Court of Record, was established by Order in Council of 13th February, 1839. Subsequent Orders extended its jurisdiction to Matrimonial and Divorce Causes. By Order in Council of the 5th of April, 1852, the Governor, in the absence of the Chief Justice, may act as Chief Justice or appoint some other person to act. The Acting Chief Justice may be assisted at his discretion by Assessors who must be Members of the Executive Council or Justices of the Peace.

There were two civil cases before the Supreme Court during the year.

Summary jurisdiction is exercised by the Magistrate and Justices of the Peace. There were 127 cases reported to the Police. In 79 cases action was taken in the Court resulting in 31 convictions.

The Small Debts Court, which has jurisdiction up to sums not exceeding £25, is established by Ordinance No. 2 of 1905. Four cases were brought before the Court during the year as compared with five in 1934.

Gaol.—During the year 17 persons were committed to prison as compared with 15 in 1934, the daily average being 0·6 as compared with 0·6 in 1934.

Police.—There have been no criminal cases of importance.

XIV.—LEGISLATION.

Seven Ordinances were passed during the year, of which the most important were the Road Traffic Ordinance repealing the Motor Car Ordinance, 1928, and the French Government Lands Vesting

(Amendment) Ordinance. The Road Traffic Ordinance (No. 1 of 1935) makes provision for the regulation and licensing of traffic on roads and of motor vehicles and otherwise with respect to roads and vehicles thereon; provision is also made for third parties against risks arising out of the use of motor vehicles.

XV.—PUBLIC FINANCE AND TAXATION.

Revenue and Expenditure.

The revenue collected during the year amounted to £21,089, being £879 in excess of the estimate but a decrease of £3,385 as compared with the revenue of the previous year.

The increase of revenue over the estimate was mainly attributable to the large sales of the Silver Jubilee issue of postage stamps to dealers outside the Colony, and the decrease of revenue, namely £3,385 as compared with that of the previous year was due to non-issue of grant-in-aid during the year 1935.

The following table shows the revenue and expenditure of the Colony for the past five years :—

Year	*Revenue.*	*Grants by Colonial Development Fund.*	*Grants-in-aid by His Majesty's Treasury.*	*Total Revenue.*	*Expenditure.*
	£	£	£	£	£
1931 ...	11,940	6,340	7,000	25,820	27,109
1932 ...	13,817	560	13,500	27,877	18,906
1933 ...	13,548	—	5,000	18,548	18,617
1934 ...	21,974	—	2,500	24,474	23,792
1935 ...	21,089	—	—	21,089	20,487

The revenue for the year 1935 as compared with the preceding year is summarized hereunder :—

	1934.	*1935.*
	£	£
Customs	5,138	5,081
Port and Marine	1,503	1,511
Licences, Taxes, etc.	617	670
Fees of Court or Office and Reimbursements ...	671	756
Post Office...	6,221	5,814
Revenue from Government Properties	1,140	1,130
Interest	619	583
Miscellaneous	573	57
Ascension	5,492	5,487
Grant-in-aid	2,500	—
	£24,474	21,089

The expenditure for the year as compared with the preceding year is as under :—

	1934.	*1935.*
	£	£
Pensions and Gratuities	1,060	1,213
Governor	1,145	1,129
Secretariat	1,011	1,113
Treasury, Customs, Port and Marine	817	863
Post Office	1,756	967
Public Health	2,538	2,637
Education	998	980
Agriculture and Forestry	924	1,183
Police and Gaol	694	690
Public Works Department and Recurrent ...	3,167	3,125
Miscellaneous	2,358	1,288
Ascension	2,645	2,266
Public Works Extraordinary	1,095	803
Unemployment Relief (mainly Flax Subsidy)...	3,584	2,230
	£23,792	£20,487

The statement of the assets and liabilities of St. Helena as at 31st December, 1935, shows : assets £28,782 (of which £3,171 was cash), liabilities £24,869.

Public Debt.

During the years 1930-1 the sum of £475 was loaned from the Colonial Development Fund for the improvement of the telephone system. This sum was loaned free of interest for one year, and thereafter at 2½ per cent. and is repayable by annuities of 5 per cent., the principal outstanding at 31st December, 1935, being £438 19s. 7d.

XVI.—MISCELLANEOUS.

Lands.

A note on the land tenures of the Island will be found in the Annual Report for 1934.

The distribution of land is as follows :—

	Number of Holdings.
Under 10 acres ...	414
Over 10 and under 50	57
Over 50 and under 100	9
Over 100 and under 500	7
Over 500 and under 1,000	2
Over 1,000	Nil

The only legislation dealing with land is " The Conveyancing and Registration Ordinance, 1893 ", which simplifies conveyancing and provides for registration.

The area of the Island is approximately 30,000 acres of which 8,600 acres are regarded as cultivable.

General.

The Governor of the Colony, Sir Spencer Davis, Kt., C.M.G., proceeded on leave to England 22nd December when the temporary administration of the Government was assumed by Mr. G. C. Kitching, O.B.E., Government Secretary.

ASCENSION ISLAND.

Lying between the parallels of 7° 53′ and 8° 0′ South and between the meridians of 14° 18′ and 14° 26′ West, is the small and not extensively known island of Ascension, entirely volcanic except for some small patches of beach.

Its length does not exceed 7½ miles from east to west, nor its breadth 6¼ miles from north to south. In circumference it is 22 miles, with an area of 34 square miles.

Passing vessels are rarely sighted from its heights, though occasionally a sailing ship or steamer may pass near by for the purpose of verifying its longitude.

A Portuguese Admiral, Joâo da Nova, first discovered the Island, and this on the 20th of May—Ascension Day—1501. Two years later a compatriot of his, Alfonse d'Albuquerque, visited Ascension and gave the place its name.

Ascension had no Napoleon to bring it fame, and yet it was due to the Royal Prisoner that Britain added it to her Possessions, for it was far too close to St. Helena to permit any other nation to occupy it, or use it as a base for efforts at rescue.

A Naval detachment was landed in 1815, and the Navy occupied it until Napoleon's death in 1821. At this period the British West African Squadron was having a busy time contending with pirates and slavers, which operations resulted in many sick and wounded. The climate of Ascension with its dry atmosphere had already proved beneficial to health, and upon the recommendation of Sir George Collier, Commander-in-Chief on the Station at that time—a Marine garrison was established on the Island, which would henceforth serve for the recruitment of the health of the crews of the squadron engaged in these operations.

Ascension was administered by the Board of Admiralty, and labour was obtained by the importation of Krooboys from the West Coast of Africa. Great discomforts and enormous difficulties were encountered by the early pioneers, but improvements were gradually effected until to-day the Island may be said to be admirably established, and an extremely pleasant spot in which to reside.

It remained under the Admiralty until 27th October, 1922, after which it became a Dependency of St. Helena. It is now administered by a Resident Magistrate, who is responsible to the Governor of St. Helena.

Cable communication was brought to the Island in 1899, and a staff of the Eastern Telegraph Company (now the Cable and Wireless, Limited), was stationed at Ascension. The Cable employees have been there ever since, but the Navy and the Marines have disappeared from the Island, which is now transformed from a war to a commercial implement.

From the sea Ascension might appear to be a desolate and forbidding spot, a sterile wilderness of volcanic peaks, its brown dusty-looking volcanoes seeming to guard the one green mountain rising up like an oasis in the centre. The black and grey lava beds running down to the sea, sometimes to end in precipitous rocks, whitened here and there by seabirds, and at others in a low black flow with jagged excrescences where the lava has piled itself up into hummocks, are no whit more attractive than the volcanoes which caused them.

A more kindly impression is formed when Clarence Bay is gained, the translucent blue of the water contrasting with the shiny whiteness of the beaches. Above it on a plateau may be seen the settlement of Georgetown—familiarly known as Garrison, with the church and club building predominating, and the red and grey tiled bungalows spread along the coast. Cross Hill rises to a height of 868 feet behind the settlement, a hill of " beautiful ugliness " ; a hill of coppery gold which seems to stand like a sentinel guarding Georgetown. On its slope may be seen " Governor's Lodge ", formerly " Captain's Cottage ", where the Governor of St. Helena resides when he visits the Island.

To the left of Cross Hill winds the road to Green Mountain, where is situated the farm settlement and rest-houses for the residents. The Peak rises to a height of 2,817 feet, and at the summit is a picturesque dew-pond, surrounded by graceful bamboos, and in the centre of which grow a group of blue water-lilies.

The journey to the farm settlement can be accomplished by car in half-an-hour, the road cut in the side of the mountain having a gradient of one in eight with 24 hairpin bends. The traveller gradually emerges from volcanic aridity into verdured country comparable to that of England, until at the settlement he finds himself surrounded by luxuriant trees, flowers and shrubs, with green lawns and vegetable gardens.

Cattle and sheep are here maintained for the needs of the community, and vegetables and fruit are grown for the table.

Water is dependent on the rainfall, there being no natural water on the Island. Concrete catchments collect the rain-water and from tanks it is piped to huge reservoirs at Georgetown.

The only inhabitants are the staff and servants of Cable and Wireless Limited, some with their wives and children. Over one hundred St. Helenians are given employment at Ascension, and a finer working body of men it would be hard to find. Their

versatility is remarkable and they are easily trained as factory mechanics, masons, carpenters and in various trades, so that with the passage of years the Island possesses a staff of expert workmen. Judicial duties are negligible, so well-conducted are the men.

There is no illness on the Island, even sunstroke is unknown and the climate is wonderful, the temperature barely varying ten degrees during the year. The south-east trade wind blows moderately all the year round. At the Mountain, blankets and fires are necessary at times.

As to sports—cricket, football, golf and tennis form the chief amusements. A cinema operates once a fortnight (talkies are about to be introduced) and besides the English Club, there is also one for the St. Helenians. Fishing from shore and dinghy is indulged in. Large fish such as albacore, dolphin, wahoo and yellow-tail are obtained not far from the beach, while cavally and cod abound everywhere.

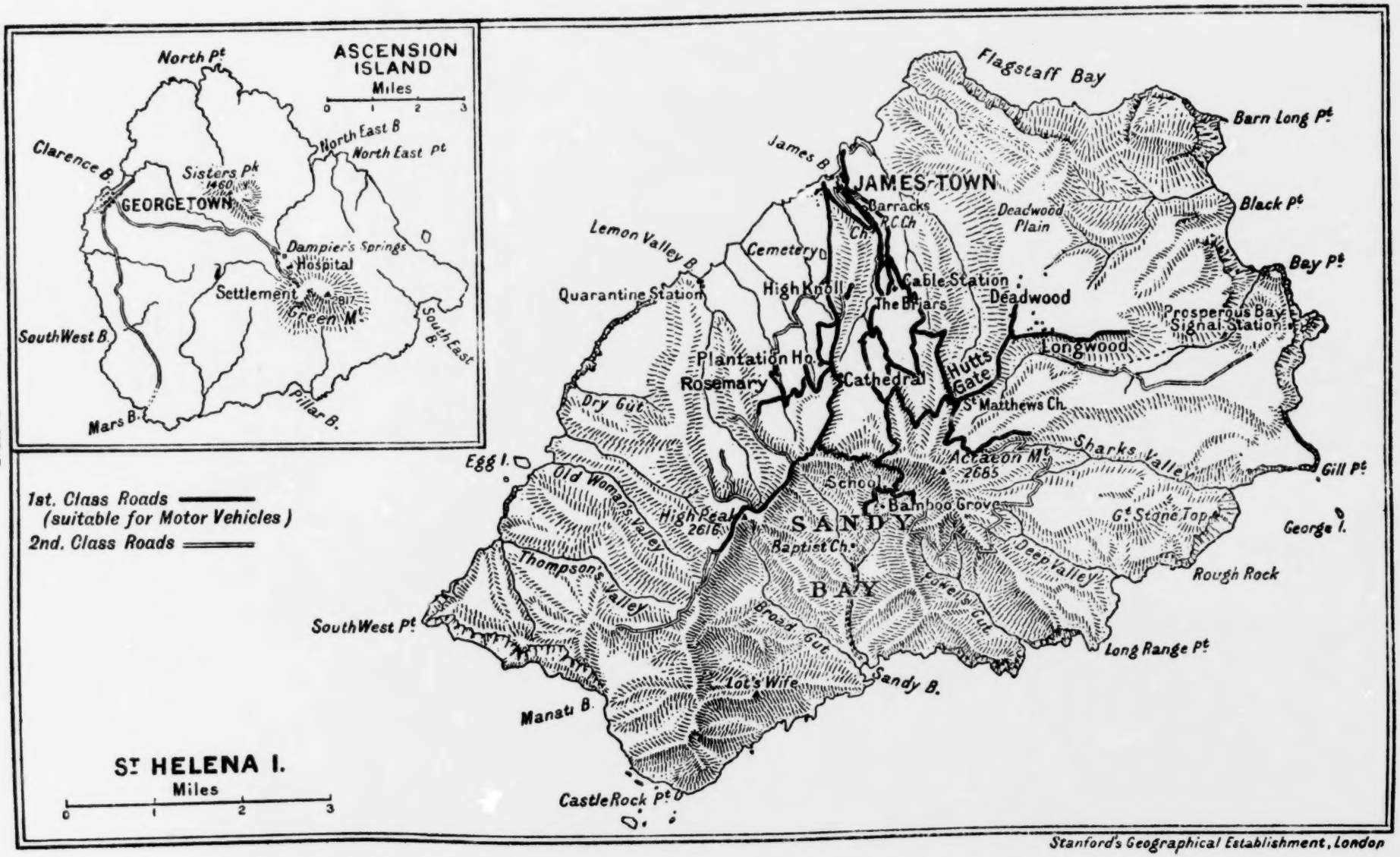
The Union-Castle intermediate steamers call once a month, outward and homeward, and naval vessels visit the Island several times during the year. Apart from these, few vessels are ever seen, which in great part contributes to the peace and quietness which reigns in Ascension Island.

APPENDIX.

Books on St. Helena of General Interest.

Title.	*Publishers or Agents.*	*Price.*
"A History of the Island of St. Helena", 1808, by T. H. Brooke. 2nd Edition, 1824.	Publishers to East India Company.	—
"St. Helena", by J. C. Mellis, 1875.	L. Reeve & Co., London.	£2 2*s.*
"St. Helena—the Historic Island", 1903, by E. L. Jackson.	Ward, Lock & Co., Ltd., London.	—
*"Napoleon in Exile", 1915, by Norwood Young (Two Volumes).	Stanley Paul & Co., London.	£1 12*s.*
"St. Helena Who's Who", 1919, by Arnold Chaplin.	A. L. Humphreys, London.	—
"On board a Union Steamer", 1882, by Capt. S. P. Oliver.	W. H. Allen & Company, Ltd., London.	8*s.*
"Campbell's Political Survey of Great Britain", 1774.	London.	—
"A Tour through St. Helena", by Capt. John Barnes, R.N., 1817.	J. M. Richardson, London.	—
"Six Months on Ascension", by Mrs. Gill, 1878.	John Murray, London.	Out of print.
"Tracts relative to the Island of St. Helena", by Beatson, London, 1816.	G. and W. Nicol, and J. Booth, London.	—
"Extracts from Records of St. Helena", by H. R. Janisch, C.M.G., 2nd Edition, 1908.	"Guardian" Printing Office, Jamestown.	—
"History of St. Helena", English Historical Review, by Sir William Foster, July, 1919.		
"Report on the Agricultural Resources of St. Helena", by D. Morris. Reprinted 1906. (Cd. 3248, Colonial Report Misc. No. 38.)	His Majesty's Stationery Office.	3½*d.*
"Geological Notes on St. Helena, by various writers, with remarks on the Economic Geology of that Island, and Geological Map", by Sir Albert Kitson, C.M.G., C.B.E., April, 1931. (Colonial No. 66.)	His Majesty's Stationery Office.	1*s.* 3*d.*
"Report on the Fisheries of St. Helena", by J. T. Cunningham, M.A., F.Z.S., 1910. (Cd. 4998, Colonial Report Misc. No. 69.)	His Majesty's Stationery Office.	1½*d.*
"Report on the Marine Molluscan Fauna of the Island of St. Helena", by Edgar A. Smith, 1890. Proceedings of Zoological Society of London, 1890, Part II, pp. 247–317.		
"The Marine Fisheries and Invertebrates of St. Helena", by J. T. Cunningham, 1911.		
"The Manatee of St. Helena", by T. H. Mortensen, Copenhagen, 1933,		
"St. Helene", by Octave Aubry.	Flammarion, Paris.	25 francs.

* This work contains a bibliography of 172 publications referring to the captivity of the Emperor Napoleon in St. Helena.



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ANNUAL REPORT ON THE SOCIAL AND ECONOMIC PROGRESS OF THE PEOPLE OF ST. HELENA FOR 1936

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I.—GEOGRAPHY, CLIMATE, AND HISTORY.

The Island of St. Helena, about 10½ miles long and 6½ broad, lies in the South Atlantic Ocean in latitude 15° 55′ South and longitude 5° 42′ West. It was discovered by João da Nova, probably in May, 1502, on his return voyage to Lisbon from India. Until 1588, when Cavendish visited it, the situation of the Island was kept a secret, and it then served as a place of refuge and refreshment for the vessels of all nations until 1659 when it was annexed by the East India Company. With the exception of a few months when it was captured on New Year's Day, 1673, by the Dutch and recaptured on the 5th May, 1673, by Sir Richard Munden, it remained in possession of the Company until the 22nd April, 1834, when it was brought under the direct government of the Crown by the Government of India Act of 1833.

A note on the climate of St. Helena and Ascension will be found in the Report for 1929—Colonial Report, No. 1475. The same Report also contains a note on the history of the Islands under the East India Company.

II.—GOVERNMENT.

By an Act of William IV, dated the 28th of August, 1833, the Island of St. Helena; as from the 22nd of April, 1834, was transferred from the East India Company and became vested in the Crown.

Provision for the authority and appointment of Governor, for the establishment of a Council to assist the Governor and for the making and promulgation of laws, was made by a Royal Order in Council dated the 12th of October, 1835. This Order was revoked by an Order dated the 27th of July, 1863, when fresh provision was made.

The Executive Council as it exists at present was established by " The St. Helena Order in Council, 1929 ", revoking previous Orders. By Instructions issued on the 5th of June, 1929, it is provided that the Council shall consist of the Senior Military Officer in Command of regular troops in the Island and of the person holding the substantive appointment of Government Secretary of the Island, as *ex officio* Members, and of such other persons as may from time to time be appointed. Provision was also included for the appointment of Extraordinary Members on special occasions.

At the present time there are three unofficial Members of Council.

Ascension.

By Letters Patent dated the 12th of September, 1922, Ascension became a Dependency of St. Helena, and it was provided that the Governor and Executive Council of St. Helena should have the same powers in relation to Ascension as they possess in relation to St. Helena. The local Manager of Cable and Wireless Limited is appointed as Resident Magistrate and is a Member of the Executive Council of St. Helena.

III.—POPULATION.

At the time of its discovery in 1502, St. Helena was uninhabited. From 1502 until 1659 it was used by the ships of various nations as a place where travellers and seamen might recuperate, and where fresh water and supplies might be obtained. In 1659 the East India Company sent John Dutton with a few soldiers and followers to annex the Island and form a settlement. These persons constituted the original European settlement of the Island, which from time to time was added to by more settlers and soldiers from England. Slaves from Africa and Asia, and in particular from Madagascar, were introduced, and in 1810 there was a large importation of Chinese workmen. In 1840 there was a considerable influx of liberated African slaves. A few years later a St. Helena Regiment was recruited in England for service in the Island.

The Island population of to-day is largely of mixed origin. The language of the Island has always been English; but the exceptional English environment is not generally realized by those unacquainted with its people. All St. Helenians receive a primary education and their homes, social life and outlook follows entirely the English tradition.

The population as revealed by the vital statistics shows a rapid and substantial increase. In previous decades a great measure of relief was obtained from emigration to South Africa; but this source of employment is no longer available as the Island people are unable to compete with the cheaper and more powerful coloured labour. Their physique is slight, and, by nature and habit, they are dett and polite, and admirably suited to light trades and employment and domestic service.

The population as ascertained by the census taken in the year 1931 is classified as under:—

	Males.	*Females.*	*Total.*
Islanders	1,825	2,026	3,851
Other British Residents ...	77	65	142
Other Nationals	2	—	2
	1,904	2,091	3,995

The distribution of the population is shown in the following table:—

District.	*Males.*	*Females.*	*Total.*
Jamestown, including the Briars and Ruperts Valley	706	823	1,529
Half Tree Hollow and Ladder Hill (including Garrison)	227	263	490
St. Paul's	157	173	330
High Point, Farm Lodge, Rosemary and Cleughs Plain ...	140	155	295
Blue Hill	140	124	264
Sandy Bay	143	146	289
Longwood and Hutt's Gate ...	391	407	798
	1,904	2,091	3,995

The estimated population on 31st December, 1936, was 4,341.

Births and Deaths, 1932–1936.

	1932.	*1933.*	*1934.*	*1935.*	*1936.*
Births	152	116	101	150	134
Deaths	58	68	47	45	66
Infant mortality per 1,000 births ...	131·5	172·4	138·6	30·00	126·87

Still-births (not included in above) 8
Illegitimate births (included in above) 36
Deaths of infants under 1 year old 17

The population of Ascension as ascertained by the census taken in the year 1931 is classified as under:—

St. Helenians	152
Other British Residents	36
	188

The population on 31st December, 1936, was:—

St. Helenians	113
Other British Residents	42
	155

IV.—HEALTH.

The medical establishment of the Island during the year consisted of:—

Senior Medical Officer.
Medical Officer.
Dental Surgeon.
Sister-in-Charge.
Four Nurses.
Clerk-Dispenser.

The general health of the Island has been good with the exception of four cases of diphtheria of which two cases were fatal.

The school children were all medically examined and the routine of dental inspections continued.

The Civil Hospital in Jamestown has 17 beds. During the year 5,544 out-patients were seen at the hospital, and there were 177 in-patients. There is but little surgery in St. Helena, the bulk of the surgical work done consisting of minor operations and dental extractions.

The two dressing stations in the country at Sandy Bay and Hutt's Gate have been visited weekly throughout the year.

Vaccination of all children is carried out under the Vaccination Ordinance of 1854. Smallpox has never established a footing in the Island.

The Poor House, which is under the management of a Poor Relief Board, was visited weekly by the Senior Medical Officer. The health of the inmates has been good. The Lunatic Asylum was also visited weekly by the Senior Medical Officer and the health of the inmates has been good during the year.

All ships calling at the Island are boarded by the Port Medical Officer who gives pratique unless the ship is infected.

V.—HOUSING.

Financial provision has been made in the Estimates for 1937 for the construction of dwellings in Jamestown in relief of housing conditions, and application has been made for grants from the Colonial Development Fund for a similar purpose in the country districts. The high cost of building material and the poverty of the people are the chief causes of the unsatisfactory housing conditions in the Island. It is impracticable, therefore, without financial assistance adequately to bring about the desired improvements.

VI.—PRODUCTION.

Agricultural and Horticultural Products.

The experimental exportation of lily bulbs (Lilium Longiflorum) continues to be promising.

The consignment despatched to Kew sold at very attractive prices and arrangements have been made whereby it is hoped to double in 1937 the quantity exported in 1936. The experiment has now reached a stage where powers to inspect plants and control disease, etc., must be regarded as justifiable.

Pyrethrum.—A small experimental consignment has been despatched to England for investigation.

Essential Oils.—A more detailed investigation is being undertaken.

Horticulture.—Particulars of the value of garden produce supplied to passing steamers are appended:—

	£
1932	339
1933	318
1934	368
1935	427
1936	578

Fibre Industry.—The London price of fibre has improved in the course of the year, and there are now nine mills at work.

Particulars of the production, export, and value of fibre and tow are appended:—

1936.	*Produced.*	*Exported.*	*Average price per ton. London.*
	Tons.	*Tons.*	£ s. d.
Fibre	850	804	17 8 4
Tow	426	425	13 4 2

Ascension.

At Green Mountain the Cable and Wireless Limited, possess a farm for the maintenance of imported animals, and gardens for the cultivation of vegetables. At the end of the year the stock consisted of 30 cattle, 307 sheep, and some pigs.

VII.—COMMERCE.

The following were the imports and exports for the year compared with 1935:—

	Imports.	*Exports.*
	£	£
1935	29,824	13,967
1936	32,836	18,166
Increase	3,012	5,339

Imports.

There was an increase in the value of imports principally under food, drink and tobacco and articles wholly or mainly manufactured, the principal decreases being in the importation of flour, drapery, petrol, oil and hardware.

The following table shows the value of the principal articles imported during the years 1935 and 1936 together with the decreases or increases:—

	1935.	*1936.*	*Decrease — Increase +*
	£	£	£
Butter...	568	701	+ 133
Confectionery	512	637	+ 125
Flour	3,931	3,451	— 480
Provisions	1,402	1,632	+ 230
Rice	1,561	2,225	+ 664
Sugar	1,414	1,967	+ 553
Tobacco and cigarettes	932	1,088	+ 156
Submarine cable	—	1,712	+ 1,712
Drapery, apparel, etc.	3,352	2,649	— 703
Motor cars and lorries and parts and accessories	668	1,539	+ 871
Petrol and oil	2,039	1,234	— 805
Hardware, machinery, etc.	2,090	1,449	— 641
Beer, wines and spirits	1,390	1,388	— 2

The undermentioned quantities are also recorded:—

		1935.	*1936.*	*Decrease — Increase +*
Beer, wines and spirits	gal.	6,588	6,037	— 551
Tobacco and cigarettes	lb.	5,180½	6,337	+ 1,156½

The countries of origin were as follows:—

	1935.	*1936.*
	£	£
United Kingdom	18,964	22,130
South Africa	2,303	2,824
Rest of Empire	4,062	4,562
United States of America	2,147	1,553
Other Foreign Countries	2,348	1,767

Importations from South Africa consisted mainly of grain, meal, drink, tobacco and coal.

Importations from Rest of Empire consisted mainly of rice, flour, butter, tea and cheese.

Importations from United States of America consisted mainly of meat, tea, milk and matches.

Exports.

The increase in the value of exports is accounted for by an increase in the market value of fibre and tow during the year.

Statistics of these exports during the year as compared with the year 1935 are as follows:—

	1935.		1936.	
	Tons.	£	*Tons.*	£
Fibre	857	9,782	804	12,989
Tow	319	2,005	425½	4,299
Rope and Twine ...	11	237	17½	417

The distribution of the total exports of the Colony were as follows:—

	1935.	1936.
	£	£
United Kingdom	12,195	15,570
South Africa	1,602	2,596
Argentine	170	—

VIII.—WAGES AND COST OF LIVING.

Wages for skilled and semi-skilled workmen vary from 2s. to 3s. 6d. per day.

The Government wage for adult unskilled labour is 2s. per day amounting to 12s. for a week of 45 hours, the half-day on Saturday counting as a full day.

In the flax mills the average daily rate for men is approximately 1s. 9d. for a nine-hour day. The average wages paid to women are approximately 1s. per day.

The number of persons employed in the flax mills is 324, and in the rope works 15.

In domestic service the monthly wage with board and lodging for housemaids varies from 10s. to £2, for cooks from 30s. to £2, and for male servants from 30s. to £4 15s.

Meat, including fowls, is obtainable at 1s. per lb.; fish is very cheap, but the supply is extremely limited and scarce in the country districts. Eggs vary according to season from 1s. 6d. to 2s. per dozen, fresh butter is 3s. per lb., and imported butter 1s. 8d. per lb.; fresh milk is 5d. per imperial pint, and the price of fresh vegetables varies with the supply which is very limited at certain seasons. Rice, which forms the staple article of diet of St. Helenians, is 2½d. per lb., and potatoes vary throughout the year from 6d. to 2s. per gallon of 7 lb.

From time to time accommodation is available for visitors, and St. Helena has attractions as a place of residence for those who seek a congenial climate and quietude. It is estimated that two people could live comfortably and in full enjoyment of all the Island has to offer on £500 to £550 a year. With a more limited range of activity two people could live on considerably less.

IX.—EDUCATION AND WELFARE INSTITUTIONS.

There was no change in the education system which consists of eight elementary schools and the Superintendent's weekly class for pupil teachers and others who wished to avail themselves of more advanced work.

Of these eight elementary or primary schools three are under Government control, viz.:—

The Boys' School in Jamestown,
The Girls' School in Jamestown,
The Country School at St. Paul's.

The other five are in receipt of grants-in-aid, viz.:—

The Hussey Charity School in Jamestown,
Half-Tree Hollow School—Hussey Charity Trustees,
Hutt's Gate School—Hussey Charity Trustees,
Sandy Bay School—St. Helena Benevolent Society,
Holbech Memorial School, Blue Hill—Diocesan.

Each year shows an increase in the number of children attending school, the number in the year under review reaching 785, of which 387 were boys, and 398 girls. In the Superintendent's class there were 10 pupils. The school which has the largest number is Hutt's Gate, where the number for 1936 was given as being 134, but which in January, 1937, had reached 148.

Relief has been given this school by Government in the addition of a new classroom and verandah, and by the Trustees who have added new desks and forms; but the growth of the school has made necessary the addition of yet another classroom to accommodate a fourth teacher.

The school at Sandy Bay has been greatly improved by the new infants' classroom and by the new forms and desks.

The general work of the school has gone on satisfactorily.

The weekly pupil teachers' class continues and is of real benefit to others besides teachers who are doing their four year's course.

The woodwork class at the Government Boys' School which is also available for the boys attending other schools continues its good work, and at the end of the year was able to exhibit some very well finished articles.

The Church Lads Brigade, Boy Scouts and Girl Guides are doing a valuable work for the youth of the Island and naturally receive every encouragement from the authorities.

Welfare Institutions.

There are no public welfare institutions in the Island. The absence is in some measure compensated for by the local Friendly Societies of which a note will be found in the Annual Report for 1931—Colonial Report No. 1568. The particulars of the Societies are appended below—

ST. HELENA FRIENDLY SOCIETIES.

Name.	*Membership.*	*Invested Funds.*
	Men.	£
Ancient Order of Foresters	355	1,493
Mechanics' Society	434	1,022
Working Men's Christian Association ...	325	457
Poor Society	417	4,033
	Women.	
Church Provident Society for Women ...	510	1,058
	Children.	
Children's Benefit Society	230	130

These Societies offer medical and sick benefits and the subscription varies from 3d. to 1s. per week. The fees are a heavy drain on the meagre wages earned generally in the Island, and the fact is of importance in a general study of local economic conditions.

X.—COMMUNICATIONS AND TRANSPORT.

There is a regular communication once a month with England and South Africa by the Union-Castle Intermediate steamers. In addition, an American steamer of the American-South African Line called on four occasions.

The vessels which called during the year were as follows:—

British vessels	32
British warships	3
American vessels—4 visits	4
Other foreign vessels	4
Yachts	2
	45

Sixty miles of roads are maintained by the Public Works Department, and although grades are steep and in some places narrow, the roads of the Island compare very favourably with those in other countries.

Seventy-nine motor cars and lorries are registered and licensed.

There is no wireless station in St. Helena, but there is a cable station with communication to all parts of the world.

The Empire Short-wave Broadcasting Service is received well in the Island.

There is regular postal communication each month between the Colony and England and South Africa. Mails are also made up as other occasions present themselves.

XI.—BANKING, CURRENCY, AND WEIGHTS AND MEASURES.

The Government Savings Bank is the only institution in the Colony.

The aggregate balances of depositors' accounts during the last five years were as follows:—

Year.	*Balance of Deposits at 31st December.*
	£
1932	20,620
1933	20,958
1934	21,200
1935	22,527
1936	23,744

The total number of depositors on 31st December, 1936, was 244 as compared with 229 on the same date in 1935.

The invested portion of the Savings Bank deposits at the end of the year is represented by Stock of the mean market value of £20,095.

By the St. Helena Coinage Order, 1925, all coins which under the Coinage Acts of 1870 and 1891 are legal tender in the United Kingdom, and all silver coins which under the Coinage Act, 1922, are legal tender in the Union of South Africa, are legal tender in the Island of St. Helena.

By the Weights and Measures Ordinance, 1905, the weights and measures for the time being lawfully in use in the United Kingdom and no others are to be used in St. Helena.

XII.—PUBLIC WORKS.

The usual programme of road works, the maintenance of water supplies of the Island, the drainage system in Jamestown and various minor works have been undertaken in the course of the year; an important item in the maintenance of water supplies being the general cleaning and repair of the Longwood waterworks.

XIII.—JUSTICE, POLICE AND PRISONS.

In addition to all local Ordinances and Orders in force, the law of the Colony consists of so much of the law of England for the time being as is applicable in the light of local circumstances.

The Supreme Court of St. Helena, which is a Court of Record, was established by Order in Council of 13th February, 1839. Subsequent Orders extended its jurisdiction to Matrimonial and Divorce Causes. By an Order in Council of the 3rd October, 1935, it is lawful for the Supreme Court to be held before the Governor of the Colony or other proper person appointed by him; and the Governor may be assisted at his discretion by Assessors who must be Members of the Executive Council or Justices of the Peace.

There were two civil cases and six criminal cases before the Supreme Court during the year.

Summary jurisdiction is exercised by the Magistrate and Justices of the Peace. There were 158 cases reported to the Police. In 137 cases action was taken in the Court resulting in 57 convictions.

The Small Debts Court, which has jurisdiction up to sums not exceeding £25, is established by Ordinance No. 2 of 1905. Two cases were brought before the Court during the year as compared with four in 1935.

Gaol.—During the year 19 persons were committed to prison as compared with 17 in 1935.

Police.—There have been no serious criminal cases.

XIV.—LEGISLATION.

Eight Ordinances were passed during the year, of which the most important were the Water Supply Ordinance, the St. Helena Government Savings Bank Ordinance, repealing the Government Savings Bank Ordinance, 1895, the Customs Ordinance, 1936, repealing the Customs (Consolidation) Ordinance, 1926.

XV.—PUBLIC FINANCE AND TAXATION.

Revenue and Expenditure.

The revenue collected during the year including a Grant-in-aid from the Imperial Treasury of £3,000 amounted to £23,198 being £5,748 in excess of the Estimates, and showing an increase of £2,109 over the revenue of the previous year.

The increase of revenue over the estimate was mainly attributable to large sales of St. Helena and Ascension postage stamps, namely increases of £3,418 and £4,272 respectively and to Customs duties (increase £437), Port and Marine, Wharfage

and Shipping Dues (£108), due to importations of petrol and paraffin being greater than the amount estimated for and to increased importations of cigarettes and exports of fibre and tow. There was a decrease of £2,500 under grant-in-aid from the estimated figure of £5,500.

The following table shows the revenue and expenditure of the Colony for the past five years:—

Year.	*Revenue.*	*Grants by Colonial Development Fund.*	*Grants-in-aid by His Majesty's Treasury.*	*Total Revenue.*	*Expenditure.*
	£	£	£	£	£
1932 ...	13,817	560	13,500	27,877	18,906
1933 ...	13,548	—	5,000	18,548	18,617
1934 ...	21,974	—	2,500	24,474	23,792
1935 ...	21,089	—	—	21,089	20,487
1936 ...	20,198	—	3,000	23,198	19,569

The revenue for the year 1936 as compared with the preceding year is summarized hereunder:—

	1935.	*1936.*
	£	£
Customs	5,081	5,037
Port and Marine	1,511	1,498
Licences, Taxes, etc.	670	660
Fees of Court or Office and Reimbursements...	756	660
Post Office	5,814	4,462
Revenue from Government Properties ...	1,130	1,264
Interest	583	20
Miscellaneous	57	24
Ascension	5,487	6,573
Grant-in-aid	—	3,000
	21,089	23,198

The expenditure for the year as compared with the preceding year is as under:—

	1935.	*1936.*
	£	£
Pensions and Gratuities	1,213	1,026
Governor	1,129	1,289
Secretariat	1,113	1,063
Treasury, Customs, Port and Marine... ...	863	867
Post Office	967	682
Public Health	2,637	2,628
Education	980	1,000
Agriculture and Forestry	1,183	1,346
Police and Gaol...	690	824
Public Works Department and Recurrent ...	3,125	3,049
Miscellaneous	1,288	1,671
Ascension	2,266	2,225
Public Works Extraordinary	803	1,899
Unemployment Relief (mainly Flax Subsidy)	2,230	—
	20,487	19,569

The statement of the assets and liabilities of St. Helena as at 31st December, 1936, shows: assets £33,338, liabilities £25,796.

Public debt.

The outstanding balance in respect of the sum of £475 loaned from the Colonial Development Fund in the year 1930-1 for the improvement of the telephone system was repaid during the year. There is now no public debt.

XVI.—MISCELLANEOUS.

Lands.

A note on the land tenures of the Island will be found in the Annual Report for 1934.

The distribution of land is as follows:—

	Number of Holdings.
Under 10 acres	414
Over 10 and under 50	57
Over 50 and under 100	9
Over 100 and under 500	7
Over 500 and under 1,000	2
Over 1,000	Nil.

The only legislation dealing with land is " The Conveyancing and Registration Ordinance, 1893," which simplifies conveyancing and provides for registration.

The area of the Island is approximately 30,000 acres of which 8,600 acres are regarded as cultivable.

XVII.—GENERAL.

The Governor of the Colony, Sir Spencer Davis, C.M.G., returned from leave on the 21st June and resumed the administration of the Government.

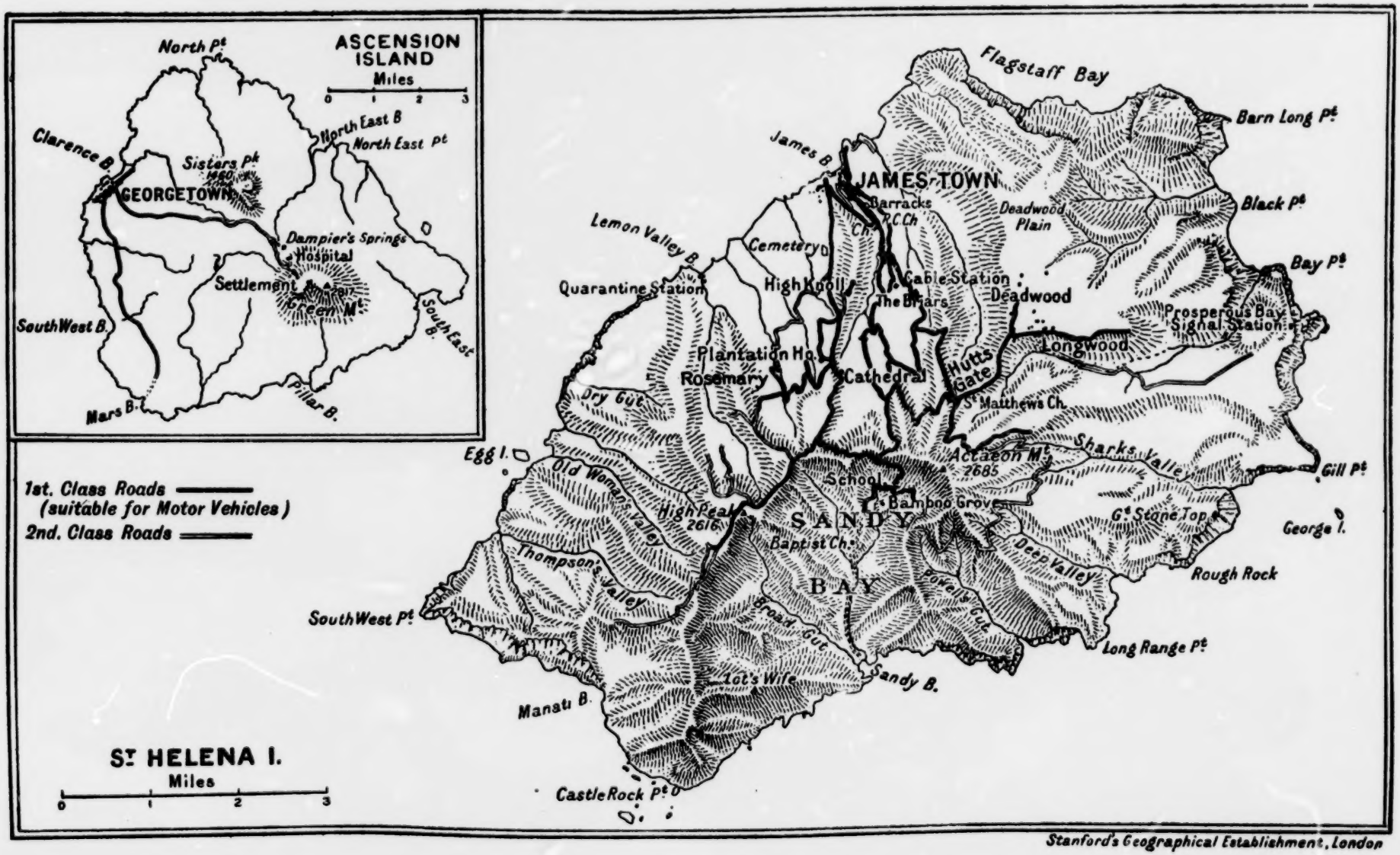
APPENDIX.

Books on St. Helena of General Interest.

Title.	*Publishers or Agents.*	*Price.*
"A History of the Island of St. Helena," 1808, by T. H. Brooke. 2nd Edition, 1824.	Publishers to East India Company.	—
"St. Helena," by J. C. Mellis, 1875 ...	L. Reeve & Co., London.	£2 2s.
"St. Helena—the Historic Island," 1903, by E. L. Jackson.	Ward, Lock & Co., Ltd., London.	—
*"Napoleon in Exile," 1915, by Norwood Young. (Two Volumes).	Stanley Paul & Co., London.	£1 12s.
"St. Helena Who's Who," 1919, by Arnold Chaplin.	A. L. Humphreys, London.	—
"On board a Union Steamer," 1822, by Capt. S. P. Oliver.	W. H. Allen & Co., Ltd., London.	8s.
"Campbell's Political Survey of Great Britain," 1774.	—	—
"A Tour through St. Helena," by Capt. John Barnes, R.N., 1817.	J. M. Richardson, London.	—
"Six months on Ascension," by Mrs. Gill, 1878.	John Murray, London.	Out of print.
"Tracts relative to the Island of St. Helena," by Beatson, London, 1816.	G. and W. Nicol, and J. Booth, London.	—
"Extracts from Records of St. Helena," by H. R. Janish, C.M.G., 2nd Edition, 1908.	"Guardian" Printing Office, Jamestown.	—
"History of St. Helena," English Historical Review, by Sir William Foster, July, 1919.	—	—
"The Loss and Recapture of St. Helena," by C. R. Boxer, The Mariners Mirror No. 4, October, 1930.	—	—
"The Earliest Exile of St. Helena Fernao Lopez," by Hugh Clifford, Blackwoods Magazine, May, 1903.	—	—
"Report to the Secretary of State for India in Council on the Records of the India Office," by F. C. Danvers, 1888.	His Majesty's Stationery Office.	—
"The Africa Pilot," Part II, 8th Edition, 1930.	His Majesty's Stationery Office.	—
"A Historical Geography of the British Colonies," by Sir C. P. Lucas, Vol. III, Oxford, 1913.	—	—
"The Voyage of the Beagle," by Charles Darwin, Many Editions.	—	—
"Ste. Hélène," by E. Masselin, Henri Plon, Paris, 1862.	—	—
"St. Helena by a Bird of Passage," 1865.	Houlston and Wright, London.	—
"A Guide to St. Helena," by Joseph Lockwood, 1851.	Geo. Gibb, St. Helena.	—
"A Few Notes on St. Helena," by Benjamin Grant, 1883.	—	—

* This work contains a bibliography of 172 publications referring to the captivity of the Emperor Napoleon in St. Helena.

Title.	*Publishers or Agents.*	*Price.*
"A Description of the Island of St. Helena," Anonymous. 1805.	R. Phillips, London.	—
"Report on the Agricultural Resources of St. Helena," by D. Morris, Reprinted in 1906. (Cd. 3248, Colonial Report Misc. No. 38.)	His Majesty's Stationery Office.	3½d.
"Geological Notes on St. Helena, by various writers, with remarks on the Economic Geology of that Island, and Geological Map," by Sir Albert Kitson, C.M.G., C.B.E., April, 1931, (Colonial No. 66).	His Majesty's Stationery Office.	1s. 3d.
"Report on the Fisheries of St. Helena," by J. T. Cunningham, M.A., F.Z.S., 1910. (Cd. 4998, Colonial Report Misc. No. 69.)	His Majesty's Stationery Office.	1½d.
"Report on the Marine Molluscan Fauna of the Island of St. Helena," by Edgar A. Smith, 1890. Proceedings of Zoological Society of London, 1890, Part II, pp. 247–317.	—	—
"The Marine Fisheries and Invertebrates of St. Helena," by J. T. Cunningham, 1911.	—	—
"The Manatee of St. Helena," by T. H. Mortensen, Copenhagen, 1933.	—	—
"Ste. Hélène," par Octave Aubry ...	Flammarion, Paris.	25 francs.
"Island Life," by A. R. Wallace, 1880	MacMillan & Co., London.	—



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ANNUAL REPORT OF THE SOCIAL AND ECONOMIC PROGRESS OF THE PEOPLE OF ST. HELENA FOR 1937

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I.—GEOGRAPHY, CLIMATE, AND HISTORY.

The Island of St. Helena, about 10½ miles long and 6½ broad, lies in the South Atlantic Ocean in latitude 15° 55′ South and longitude 5° 42′ West. It was discovered by João da Nova, probably in May, 1502, on his return voyage to Lisbon from India. Until 1588, when Cavendish visited it, the situation of the Island was kept a secret, and it then served as a place of refuge and refreshment for the vessels of all nations until 1659 when it was annexed by the East India Company. With the exception of a few months when it was captured on New Year's Day, 1673, by the Dutch and recaptured on the 5th May, 1673, by Sir Richard Munden, it remained in possession of the Company until the 22nd April, 1834, when it was brought under the direct Government of the Crown by the Government of India Act of 1833.

A note on the climate of St. Helena and Ascension will be found in the Report for 1929—Colonial Report, No. 1475. The same Report also contains a note on the history of the Islands under the East India Company.

II.—GOVERNMENT.

By an Act of William IV, dated the 28th of August, 1833, the Island of St. Helena, as from the 22nd April, 1834, was transferred from the East India Company and became vested in the Crown.

Provision for the authority and appointment of Governor, for the establishment of a Council to assist the Governor and for the making and promulgation of laws, was made by a Royal Order in Council dated the 12th of October, 1835. This Order was revoked by an Order dated the 27th of July, 1863, when fresh provision was made.

The Executive Council as it exists at present was established by " The St. Helena Order in Council, 1929," revoking previous Orders. By Instructions issued on the 5th of June, 1929, it is provided that the Council shall consist of the Senior Military Officer in Command of regular troops in the Island and of the person holding the substantive appointment of Government Secretary of the Island, as *ex officio* Members, and of such other persons as may from time to time be appointed. Provision was also included for the appointment of Extraordinary Members on special occasions.

At the present time there are three unofficial Members of Council.

Ascension.

By Letters Patent dated the 12th of September, 1922, Ascension became a Dependency of St. Helena, and it was provided that the Governor and Executive Council of St. Helena should have the same powers in relation to Ascension as they possess in relation to St. Helena. The local Manager of Cable and Wireless, Limited, is appointed as Resident Magistrate and is a Member of the Executive Council of St. Helena.

III.—POPULATION.

At the time of its discovery in 1502, St. Helena was uninhabited. From 1502 until 1659 it was used by the ships of various nations as a place where travellers and seamen might recuperate, and where fresh water and supplies might be obtained. In 1659 the East India Company sent John Dutton with a few soldiers and followers to annex the Island and form a settlement. These persons constituted the original European settlement of the Island, which from time to time was added to by more settlers and soldiers from England. Slaves from Africa and Asia, and in particular from Madagascar, were introduced, and in 1810 there was a large importation of Chinese workmen. In 1840 there was a considerable influx of liberated African

slaves. A few years later a St. Helena Regiment was recruited in England for service in the Island.

The Island population of to-day is largely of mixed origin. The language of the Island has always been English; but the exceptional English environment is not generally realized by those unacquainted with its people. All St. Helenians receive a primary education and their homes, social life and outlook follows entirely the English tradition.

The population as revealed by the vital statistics shows a rapid and substantial increase. In previous decades a great measure of relief was obtained from emigration to South Africa; but this source of employment is no longer available as the Island people are unable to compete with the cheaper and more powerful coloured labour. Their physique is slight, and, by nature and habit, they are deft and polite, and admirably suited to light trades and employment and domestic service.

The population as ascertained by the census taken in the year 1931 is classified as under:—

	Males.	*Females.*	*Total.*
Islanders	1,825	2,026	3,851
Other British Residents ...	77	65	142
Other Nationals	2	—	2
	1,904	2,091	3,995

The distribution of the population is shown in the following table:—

District.	*Males.*	*Femaies.*	*Total.*
Jamestown, including the Briars and Ruperts Valley	706	823	1,529
Half Tree Hollow and Ladder Hill (including Garrison)	227	263	490
St. Paul's	157	173	330
High Point, Farm Lodge, Rosemary and Cleughs Plain ...	140	155	295
Blue Hill	140	124	264
Sandy Bay	143	146	289
Longwood and Hutt's Gate ...	391	407	798
	1,904	2,091	3,995

The estimated population on 31st December, 1937, was 4,415.

Births and Deaths, 1933–1937.

	1933.	*1934.*	*1935.*	*1936.*	*1937.*
Births	116	101	150	134	132
Deaths	68	47	45	66	32
Infant mortality per 1,000 births ...	172·4	138·6	80·00	126·87	45·45

Still-births (not included in above) 8
Illegitimate births (included in above) 25
Deaths of infants under 1 year old 6

The population of Ascension on 31st December, 1937, was:—

St. Helenians	110
Other British Residents	44
	154

IV.—HEALTH.

The medical establishment of the Island during the year consisted of:—

Senior Medical Officer,
Medical Officer,
Dental Surgeon,
Sister-in-Charge,
Four Nurses.

From February to November there was only one medical officer resident in the Island.

An additional European Sister was appointed in August.

The Dental Surgeon left the Colony on grounds of ill-health in December and no new appointment had been made at the end of the year under review.

The general health of the population was good throughout the year except in June when there was an outbreak of influenza. Many of these cases were complicated by lobar pneumonia, but none were fatal.

The heavy incidence of malignant disease on this Island is notable. In 1936 out of ten deaths in the hospital two were due to this disease and in their homes two succumbed. In 1937 out of thirteen deaths in the hospital one was due to cancer, and in their homes four succumbed.

Deaths from cancer:—1910-9, 25 deaths; 1920-9, 18 deaths; 1930-7, 29 deaths; and during 1937, two cases left the Island, one cancer of the tongue and one of the floor of the mouth. There is no record of cases of this disease sent away for operation in other years.

The only infectious disease was mild chicken pox.

Scabies is rife amongst the children of the poorer classes.

There was one fatal case of tetanus.

There is one case of leprosy on the Island.

The Civil Hospital in Jamestown has 17 beds.

There is but little surgery in St. Helena, the bulk of the surgical work done consisting of minor operations and dental extractions.

The two dressing stations in the country at Sandy Bay and Hutt's Gate have been visited weekly throughout the year.

Vaccination of all children is carried out under the Vaccination Ordinance of 1854.

The Poor House, which is under the management of a Poor Relief Board, was visited weekly by the Senior Medical Officer. The health of the inmates has been good. The Lunatic Asylum was also visited weekly by the Senior Medical Officer and the health of the inmates has been good during the year.

All ships calling at the Island are boarded by the Port Health Officer.

V.—HOUSING.

The condition of the housing throughout the Colony is still the cause of much anxiety. In the course of the year approval was received for the construction of cottages in the country districts by a grant from the Colonial Development Fund. The construction of additional dwellings in Jamestown was also begun. It is evident that measures of a more far reaching character will require to be adopted before any substantial improvements can be expected.

VI.—NATURAL RESOURCES.

Agricultural and Horticultural Products.

Lily bulbs.—A total of 5,646 bulbs were despatched in two consignments to Messrs. Tucker & Co., during March and April. The bulbs realized good prices at London, and after the Agent's charges, costs of freight, packing, etc., had been deducted the sum of £107 1s. 5d. was available for distribution to the twelve growers who had supplied them. Payments ranged between 10s. 5d. and £28 10s. 6d. to each grower.

Reports as to the growth and flowering of these bulbs in England have been satisfactory. Considerable publicity has been given to the " St. Helena Lily " by nurserymen's advertisements and letters and articles which have appeared in well known periodicals, leading to the view that for the next two years at least, the demand is likely to be well ahead of the supply.

An experiment, on a scale larger than was possible in the previous year, is being conducted in England to ascertain the effects of cold storage on the bulbs in order to determine whether treated bulbs can be used for providing cut flowers for market from November to February.

Some hundred plants of *Lilium sulphurcum* grown from bulbils received from Kew in September, 1936, and a few plants of *L. speciosum rubram* propagated from a single bulb, are flourishing in a nursery bed. This small-scale experiment indicates that the prospect of ultimately producing bulbs of these two species for export is good.

Seeds of 11 other varieties of lilies, the bulbs of which are in demand in Europe, were obtained for trial.

Pyrethrum.—Small samples of dried flower heads (3 lbs.), and of stalks (3¾ lbs.), were collected and prepared over a period of several weeks, from the small plot in the nursery, and despatched to the Imperial Institute in March. The report subsequently furnished stated that the flowers contained a satisfactory pyrethrum content, but that the stalks had no commercial value.

Whilst the quantity of pyrethrum that could possibly be exported from St. Helena would never approach that of other exporting countries it appears there would be no difficulty of finding a market for smaller shipments providing the product reaches a good standard of quality.

New Potatoes.—A consignment consisting of four tons (200 cases) grown in two districts differing in soil types and quantity of rainfall, were packed and shipped to England at the end of November. They reached Covent Garden 24 days after despatch. It was first reported that they had arrived in an unsaleable condition but a later telegram stated that sufficient had been sold to cover the costs of freight. Further experimental shipments will be made.

Geranium Oil.—The work of extending the Geranium plots and of building a still of sufficient capacity to permit the production of sufficient oil for a final test, is contemplated for 1938.

Roman Hyacinths.—The bulbs obtained from Kew and Messrs. C. G. Van Tubergen of Holland at the end of 1936 have now completed two growths and appear to have adapted themselves to the different seasons and conditions.

Lavender.—Several of the plants received from Kew a year ago have made satisfactory growth but no expression of opinion as to the commercial possibilities of this crop is justified at present.

Olives.—Of the 30 young olives purchased from a South African nurseryman and planted in September, 1936, six have succumbed to attack by termites, the remainder now appear to be well established and have made excellent growth during the recent growing season.

Forestry.—No planting could be undertaken during the year and work was mostly confined to cleaning the young plantings of *Podocarpus* and *Cedrela*, and clearing old and damaged trees from areas near the Scotland side of Plantation. Two very large Norfolk Island Pines were removed at White Gate. One of these was in a very dangerous condition, termites having destroyed the centre of the tree for several feet above the ground, leaving a thin cylinder of sound wood underneath the bark. The susceptibility of this species, and of the common

oak, to termite attack points to the need for their replacement by trees which have greater powers of resistance to the pest.

St. Helena Growers' Association.—No changes or new activities could be undertaken during the year such as would bring this Association more into line with a well conducted agricultural co-operative marketing society.

Progress was made in the sale of produce to the vessels of the Union Castle Co. The gross receipts were £67 more than the previous year and reached the sum of £645, the highest yet recorded.

Rat Campaign.—Three centres were established for receiving rat heads on two days of the week at Scotland, Jamestown and Longwood. The procedure adopted was for each receiving officer to issue a receipt to each person for the number of rat heads brought in, and payment to be made at the rate of a half-penny per head on the presentation of the receipts at the Department's Office at Jamestown every Saturday morning. The campaign started on 8th November. After it had been in action for four weeks, the need for certain alterations became apparent and it was decided to increase the rate to one penny for tails instead of heads. The change had effect in increasing the popularity of the scheme, but it had been started too late in the year for results up to 31st December to be any indication as to the full measure of support to be received.

Fibre Industry.—For the greater part of the year good prices ruled on the London market and nine mills were at work. In the autumn there was a substantial recession and by December a number of mills had closed.

Particulars of the production, export, and value of fibre and tow are appended:—

	Produced	*Exported*	*Average price per ton London*		
	Tons	*Tons*	£	*s.*	*d.*
1933—Fibre	855	668	12	18	0
Tow	336	285	9	0	0
1934—Fibre	821	568	12	0	0
Tow	401	447	8	0	0
1935—Fibre	578	857	13	15	0
Tow	220	319	9	10	0
1936—Fibre	850	804	17	8	4
Tow	426	425	13	4	2
1937—Fibre	1,046	1,090	23	5	0
Tow	486	418	15	3	0

ASCENSION.

At Green Mountain, Cable and Wireless Limited possess a farm for the maintenance of imported animals, and gardens for the cultivation of vegetables. At the end of the year the stock consisted of 27 cattle, 402 sheep and some pigs.

VII.—COMMERCE.

The main foodstuffs that are required to be imported into the Colony are flour, rice, sugar, lard and lard substitutes, margarine, salted meat and provisions.

The principal exports are New Zealand fibre (*Phormium Tenax*) and its bi-product tow which together form 98 per cent. of the total exports.

There is a small trade in supplying vegetables to ships.

During the year under review the London market price of fibre rose to a higher level than that obtaining for some years past and resulted in a substantial increase in the exports of this commodity.

The aggregate value of external trade exclusive of bullion and specie for the year amounted to £63,771 as compared with £50,702 for the previous year. Imports showed an increase of £4,992 and Exports an increase of £8,077.

The following tables show the principal heads and respective values for the past five years:—

Imports	*1933* £	*1934* £	*1935* £	*1936* £	*1937* £
Food, drink and tobacco ...	17,359	17,545	17,487	18,861	21,241
Raw materials and articles mainly unmanufactured ...	620	1,145	966	1,152	1,315
Articles wholly or mainly manufactured	11,219	13,986	11,371	12,823	15,272
Miscellaneous and unclassified	901	—	—	—	—
	30,099	32,676	29,824	32,836	37,828
Bullion and specie	1,020	800	—	—	—
	£31,119	33,476	29,824	32,836	37,828
Domestic Exports					
New Zealand fibre	7,553	5,759	9,782	12,989	21,210
New Zealand tow	1,873	2,457	2,005	4,299	4,107
New Zealand rope and twine	968	498	257	417	292
Other articles (wool, etc.) ...	172	100	503	161	334
	£10,566	8,814	12,547	17,866	25,943
Re-exports					
Other articles	173	100	258	387	431
Bullion and specie	32	35	1,440	300	30
	£205	135	1,698	687	461

IMPORTS.

The following table shows the value and percentage of the total imports (excluding bullion and specie) for the past five years, and the principal supplying countries:—

Country	1933 £	1933 Per cent.	1934 £	1934 Per cent.	1935 £	1935 Per cent.	1936 £	1936 Per cent.	1937 £	1937 Per cent.
United Kingdom ...	23,338	78·0	21,329	65·0	18,964	63·0	22,130	67·0	26,687	70·0
South Africa	3,010	10·0	6,345	20·0	2,303	8·0	2,824	9·0	2,946	8·0
British India					1,678	6·0	2,414	7·0	2,192	6·0
Rest of Empire ...					2,384	8·0	2,148	7·0	2,348	6·0
Total Empire	26,348		27,674		25,329		29,516		34,173	
Foreign Countries...	3,751	12·0	5,032	15·0	4,495	15·0	3,320	10·0	3,655	10·0
Totals ...	£30,099		32,676		29,824		32,836		37,828	

Importations from South Africa consisted mainly of grain, meal, wines, tobacco, fruit and coal.

Importations from other Empire Countries consisted mainly of rice, flour, butter, tea and cheese.

Importations from Foreign Countries consisted mainly of petrol and paraffin oil (from United States of America, value £860), meat, tea, milk and matches.

EXPORTS.

The following table shows the value and percentage of the total domestic exports for the past five years and the principal countries of destination:—

Country	1933 £	1933 Per cent.	1934 £	1934 Per cent.	1935 £	1935 Per cent.	1936 £	1936 Per cent.	1937 £	1937 Per cent.
United Kingdom...	10,319	98·0	8,392	95·0	11,155	89·0	15,570	87·0	25,651	99·0
South African	165	1·0	422	5·0	1,202	10·0	2,296	13·0	292	1·0
Total Empire	10,484		8,814		12,357		17,866		25,943	
Foreign Countries...	82	1·0			170	1·0				
Totals ...	£10,566		8,814		12,527		17,866		25,943	

The increase in the value of exports is due to an increase in the market value of fibre and to increased exports of this commodity.

RE-EXPORTS.

The following table shows the value of re-exports (excluding bullion and specie) for the past five years, and countries of destination:—

Country	*1933* £	*1934* £	*1935* £	*1936* £	*1937* £
United Kingdom ...	5	19	123	15	75
South Africa	168	81	135	372	356
Totals	£173	100	258	387	431

The following table shows the values of the principal imports for the years 1936 and 1937 together with the increases or decreases and the principal sources of supply:—

Commodity	*Principal source of supply*	*1936* £	*1937* £	*Decrease — Increase +* £
Lard and substitutes and margarine ...	United Kingdom	2,041	2,222	+ 181
Butter	United Kingdom, New Zealand, Australia ...	701	687	— 14
Meat	United Kingdom, Denmark ...	798	954	+ 156
Confectionery ...	United Kingdom	637	646	+ 9
Flour	United Kingdom, Australia ...	3,451	5,138	+1,687
Provisions	United Kingdom	1,632	1,105	— 527
Rice	British India ...	2,225	2,056	— 169
Sugar	United Kingdom	1,967	1,923	— 44
Tobacco and cigarettes	United Kingdom	1,088	1,080	— 8
Submarine cable ...	United Kingdom	1,712	—	—1,712
Drapery, apparel, etc.	United Kingdom	2,649	2,902	+ 253
Motor cars and lorries, parts and accessories ...	United Kingdom	1,539	1,785	+ 246
Petrol and oil ...	U.S.A.	1,234	926	+ 308
Coal and coke .	United Kingdom and S. Africa ...	998	1,236	+ 238
Hardware, Machinery, etc.	United Kingdom	1,449	2,373	+ 924
Beer, wines and spirits	United Kingdom and S. Africa ...	1,388	1,656	+ 268

The undermentioned quantities are also recorded:—

	1936	*1937*	*Decrease — Increase +*
Beer, wines and spirits ...	6,037 gal.	6,823 gal.	+ 786 gal.
Tobacco and cigarettes ...	6,337 lb.	6,643 lb.	+ 306 lb.

There was an increase in the value of imports principally under food, drink and tobacco (£2,380), raw materials and articles mainly unmanufactured (£163), and articles wholly or mainly manufactured (£2,449). The principal increases in

importations being flour, drapery and apparel, motor cars, parts and accessories, hardware and machinery, beer, wines and spirits and coal and coke. Decreases occurred in importations of provisions, rice, submarine cable, petrol and paraffin oil.

Domestic Exports.

The following table shows the quantities of the principal domestic exports during the past five years:—

Commodity	*1933* *Tons*	*1934* *Tons*	*1935* *Tons*	*1936* *Tons*	*1937* *Tons*
Fibre	668	568	857	804	1,090
Tow	285	447	319	425½	418
Rope and Twine	45	25	11	17½	11¼
Totals	998	1,040	1,187	1,247	1,519¼

The increase in tonnage of exports is accounted for by an increase in the market value of fibre causing increased sales overseas.

Fibre and tow is shipped to England and rope and twine to South Africa.

The following tables show the imports and exports respectively of coin and notes:—

Imports	*1933* £	*1934* £	*1935* £	*1936* £	*1937* £
Coin	1,020	800	—	—	—
Notes	—	200	—	—	1,000
Totals	£1,020	1,000	—	—	1,000

Exports	*1933* £	*1934* £	*1935* £	*1936* £	*1937* £
Coin	32	35	1,440	300	30
Notes	—	—	361	900	3,000
Totals	£32	35	1,801	1,200	3,030

VIII.—LABOUR.

The labour position in the Colony is far from satisfactory as the supply is greatly in excess of the demand. The flax industry in full operation does not employ more than about 320 persons and about 260 are absorbed in Government employment, domestic service and farming, leaving a balance of approximately 100 for whom there is no permanent employment.

To alleviate distress caused by unemployment, relief works are instituted by Government from time to time.

IX.—WAGES AND COST OF LIVING.

Wages for skilled and semi-skilled workmen vary from 2s. to 3s. 6d. per day.

The Government wage for adult unskilled labour is 2s. per day amounting to 12s. per week of 45 hours, the half-day on Saturday counting as a full day.

In the flax mills the average daily rate for men is approximately 1s. 9d. for a nine-hour day. The average wages paid to women are approximately 1s. per day.

The number of persons employed in the flax mills is 324, and in the rope works 15.

In domestic service the monthly wage with board and lodging for housemaids varies from 10s. to £2, for cooks from 30s. to £2, and for male servants from 30s. to £4 15s.

Meat, including fowls, is obtainable at 1s. per lb.; fish is very cheap, but the supply is extremely limited and scarce in the country districts. Eggs vary according to season from 1s. 6d. to 2s. per dozen, fresh butter is 3s. per lb., and imported butter 2s. per lb.; fresh milk is 5d. per imperial pint, and the price of fresh vegetables varies with the supply which is very limited at certain seasons. Rice, which forms the staple article of diet of St. Helenians, is 2½d. per lb., and potatoes vary throughout the year from 6d. to 2s. per gallon of 7 lbs.

Limited accommodation is available for visitors, and St. Helena has attractions as a place of residence for those who seek a congenial climate and quietude. It is estimated that two people could live comfortably and in full enjoyment of all the Island has to offer on £500 to £550 a year. With a more limited range of activity two people could live on considerably less.

X.—EDUCATION AND WELFARE INSTITUTIONS.

There was no change in the educational system during the year 1937. There are eight elementary schools and the Superintendent's class for pupil teachers and those who wish to avail themselves of the opportunity of continuing their studies in some advanced work, which includes English, French, Latin, arithmetic, algebra and book-keeping.

Of these eight elementary or primary schools three are under Government direction, viz.:—

The Boys' School in Jamestown.
The Girls' School in Jamestown.
The Country School at St. Paul's.

The other five schools are under the management respectively of the Hussey Charity Trustees, the St. Helena Benevolent Society and the Diocese of St. Helena and are in receipt of grants-in-aid. These are:—

The three Hussey Charity Schools, Jamestown, Half-Tree Hollow and Hutt's Gate.

The Benevolent Society School at Sandy Bay.

The Holbeach Memorial Diocesan School at Blue Hill.

The number of children attending school continues to increase, 809 being on the roll in 1937, compared to 785 in 1936. Of these 397 were boys and 412 girls. There were 10 pupils in the Superintendent's class.

The work of the schools throughout the year was satisfactory.

There are, as is inevitable, a few instances wherein children have been slack in attendance. These on investigation have usually been due to extreme poverty or domestic difficulties when mothers have been sick and needed a child's attention or been obliged to go out to work with no one to look after the home and the baby. These are exceptional cases for which prosecutions present no cure. There has been remarkably little actual truancy. Generally speaking the value of education is as much appreciated by the parents as by the children. It is only necessary to call to mind the poverty of so many of the homes, the long distance some of the children have to travel, the weather they have to face to realise the sacrifices that are daily being made for the sake of attaining knowledge.

The Children's Lunch Fund, a voluntary effort to which Government in the year under review contributed £30 has proved to be of great benefit in assuring that no poor child shall continue hungry or face a long return journey home unfed. The money received for the purpose proved insufficient to cover the cost during the whole year.

The Coronation festival was marked by a treat and sports day for children on Francis Plain. They were entertained to lunch and tea, and money prizes were given to the winners in the various contests.

Good and useful work was done at the woodwork shop attached to the Boys' School, which is open to all the schools on the Island. Among other things particularly useful work was done in the making of the woodwork parts of dual desks of which the steel supports had been obtained from England.

The Church Lads Brigade, Boy Scouts and Girl Guides continue to do a valuable work in the training of the Island's youth, and naturally receive every encouragement, apart from financial assistance, from the authorities.

Welfare Institutions.

It is hoped that an Infant Welfare Clinic will be established in 1938. The absence of other Welfare Institutions is in some measure compensated for by the local Friendly Societies of which a note will be found in the Annual Report for 1931—Colonial Report No. 1568. The particulars of the Societies are appended below:—

ST. HELENA FRIENDLY SOCIETIES.

Name.	*Membership.*	*Invested Funds* £
Men.		
Ancient Order of Foresters	356	1,493
Mechanics Society	510	1,173
Working Men's Christian Association ...	325	451
Poor Society	402	3,856
Women.		
Church Provident Society for Women ...	527	1,100
Children.		
Children's Benefit Society	244	145

These Societies offer medical and sick benefits and the subscription varies from 3d. to 1s. per week. The fees are a heavy drain on the meagre wages earned generally in the Island, and the fact is of importance in a general study of local economic conditions. The Mechanic's Society will celebrate its centenary in 1938.

XI.—COMMUNICATIONS AND TRANSPORT.

There is a regular communication once a month with England and South Africa by the Union-Castle intermediate steamers. In addition an American steamer of the American-African Line called on three occasions.

The vessels which called during the year were as follows:—

British vessels	28
British warships	5
American vessels	3
Other foreign vessels	2
Yachts	3
	41

Forty-one miles of roads are maintained by the Public Works Department, and although grades are steep and in some places narrow, the roads of the Island compare very favourably with those in other countries.

Eighty-three motor cars and lorries are registered and licensed.

There is no wireless station in St. Helena, but there is a cable station with communication to all parts of the world.

The Empire short-wave broadcasting service is received well in the Island.

There is regular postal communication each month between the Colony and England and South Africa. Mails are also made up as other occasions present themselves.

XII.—PUBLIC WORKS.

The usual programme of road works, the maintenance of water supplies of the Island, the drainage system in Jamestown and various minor works have been undertaken in the course of the year. Important items have been the repair of the wharf steps, reconstruction of the Briars-New Bridge Road and the reconstruction of New Bridge.

XIII.—JUSTICE, POLICE AND PRISONS.

In addition to all local Ordinances and Orders in force, the law of the Colony consists of so much of the law of England for the time being as is applicable in the light of local circumstances.

The Supreme Court of St. Helena, which is a Court of Record, was established by Order in Council of 13th February, 1839. Subsequent Orders extended its jurisdiction to Matrimonial and Divorce Causes. By an Order in Council of the 3rd October, 1935, it is lawful for the Supreme Court to be held before the Governor of the Colony or other proper person appointed by him; and the Governor may be assisted at his discretion by Assessors who must be Members of the Executive Council or Justices of the Peace.

There were three civil cases and four criminal cases before the Supreme Court during the year.

Summary jurisdiction is exercised by the Magistrate and Justices of the Peace. There were 82 cases dealt with during the year as compared with 137 the previous year.

The Small Debts Court, which has jurisdiction up to sums not exceeding £25, is established by Ordinance No. 2 of 1905. Two cases were brought before the Court during the year as compared with the same number the previous year.

Gaol.—During the year 18 persons were committed to prison as compared with 19 in 1936.

Police.—There have been no serious criminal cases.

XIV.—LEGISLATION.

Nine Ordinances were enacted during the year, of which the most important were the Liquor (Licensing) Ordinance, repealing the Liquor (Licensing) Ordinance, 1907; the Pharmacy and

Poisons Ordinance; the Dangerous Drugs Ordinance, repealing the Dangerous Drugs Ordinance, 1929; the Factories Ordinance, and the Forestry Ordinance.

XV.—BANKING, CURRENCY, AND WEIGHTS AND MEASURES.

The Government Savings Bank is the only Banking institution in the Colony.

The aggregate balances of depositors' accounts during the last five years were as follows:—

Year.	*Balance of deposits at 31st December.*
	£
1933	20,958
1934	21,200
1935	22,527
1936	23,744
1937	25,033

The total number of depositors on 31st December, 1937, was 240 as compared with 244 on the corresponding day of 1936.

The invested portion of the Savings Bank Deposits at the end of the year is represented by stock of the mean market value of £22,282.

By the St. Helena Coinage Order, 1925, all coins which under the Coinage Acts of 1870 and 1891 are legal tender in the United Kingdom, and all silver coins which under the Coinage Act, 1922, are legal tender in the Union of South Africa, are legal tender in the Island of St. Helena.

By the Weights and Measures Ordinance, 1905, the weights and measures for the time being lawfully in use in the United Kingdom and no others are to be used in St. Helena.

XVI.—PUBLIC FINANCE AND TAXATION.

Revenue and Expenditure.

The Revenue collected during the year, including a free grant of £250 from the Colonial Development Fund, amounted to £41,436 being £22,476 in excess of the Estimates, and showing an increase of £18,238 over the revenue of the previous year. There was no grant-in-aid in 1937.

The increase of Revenue over the Estimates was mainly attributable to large sales of St. Helena and Ascension Coronation stamps to dealers overseas, namely increases of £10,240 and £11,022 respectively, and to customs duties (increase £526), port and marine, wharfage and shipping dues (£188),

due to importations of cigarettes, tobacco and alcoholic spirits being greater than the amount estimated for, and increased tonnages of imports and exports.

The following table shows the revenue and expenditure of the Colony for the past five years:—

Year.	*Revenue.*	*Grants by Colonial Development Fund.*	*Grants-in-aid by His Majesty's Treasury.*	*Total Revenue.*	*Expenditure.*
	£	£	£	£	£
1933 ...	13,548	—	5,000	18,548	18,617
1934 ...	21,974	—	2,500	24,474	23,792
1935 ...	21,089	—	—	21,089	20,487
1936 ...	20,198	—	3,000	23,198	19,569
1937 ...	41,186	250	—	41,436	23,191

The Revenue for the year 1937 as compared with the preceding year is summarised hereunder:—

	1936.	*1937.*
	£	£
Customs	5,037	5,276
Port and Marine	1,498	1,588
Licences, Taxes, etc.	660	676
Fees of Court or Office and Reimbursements...	660	740
Post Office	4,462	14,446
Revenue from Government Properties ...	1,264	1,125
Interest	20	226
Miscellaneous	24	39
Ascension	6,573	17,070
Grant-in-aid	3,000	—
Grant from Colonial Development Fund ...	—	250
	£23,198	£41,436

The Expenditure for the year as compared with the preceding year is as under:—

	1936.	*1937.*
	£	£
Pensions and Gratuities	1,026	1,542
Governor	1,289	1,087
Secretariat	1,063	1,565
Treasury, Customs, Port and Marine... ...	86-	871
Post Office	682	1,117
Public Health	2,628	3,213
Education	1,000	1,207
Agriculture and Forestry	1,346	1,339
Police and Gaol...	824	880
Public Works Department and Recurrent ...	3,049	3,249
Miscellaneous	1,671	1,253
Ascension	2,225	2,521
Public Works Extraordinary	1,899	3,114
Colonial Development Fund	—	233
	£19,569	£23,191

The statement of the Assets and Liabilities of St. Helena as at 31st December, 1937, shows: assets £53,122, liabilities £27,335.

Public Debt.

There is no public debt.

XVII.—MISCELLANEOUS.

Lands.

A note on the land tenures of the Island will be found in the Annual Report for 1934.

The distribution of land is approximately as follows:—

	Number of Holdings.
Under 10 acres	414
Over 10 and under 50	57
Over 50 and under 100	9
Over 100 and under 500	7
Over 500 and under 1,000	2
Over 1,000	Nil

The only legislation dealing with land is " The Conveyancing and Registration Ordinance, 1893," which simplifies conveyancing and provides for registration.

The area of the Island is approximately 30,000 acres of which 8,600 acres are regarded as cultivable.

XVIII.—GENERAL.

The Governor of the Colony, Sir Spencer Davis, C.M.G., left the Colony on retirement on the 25th October.

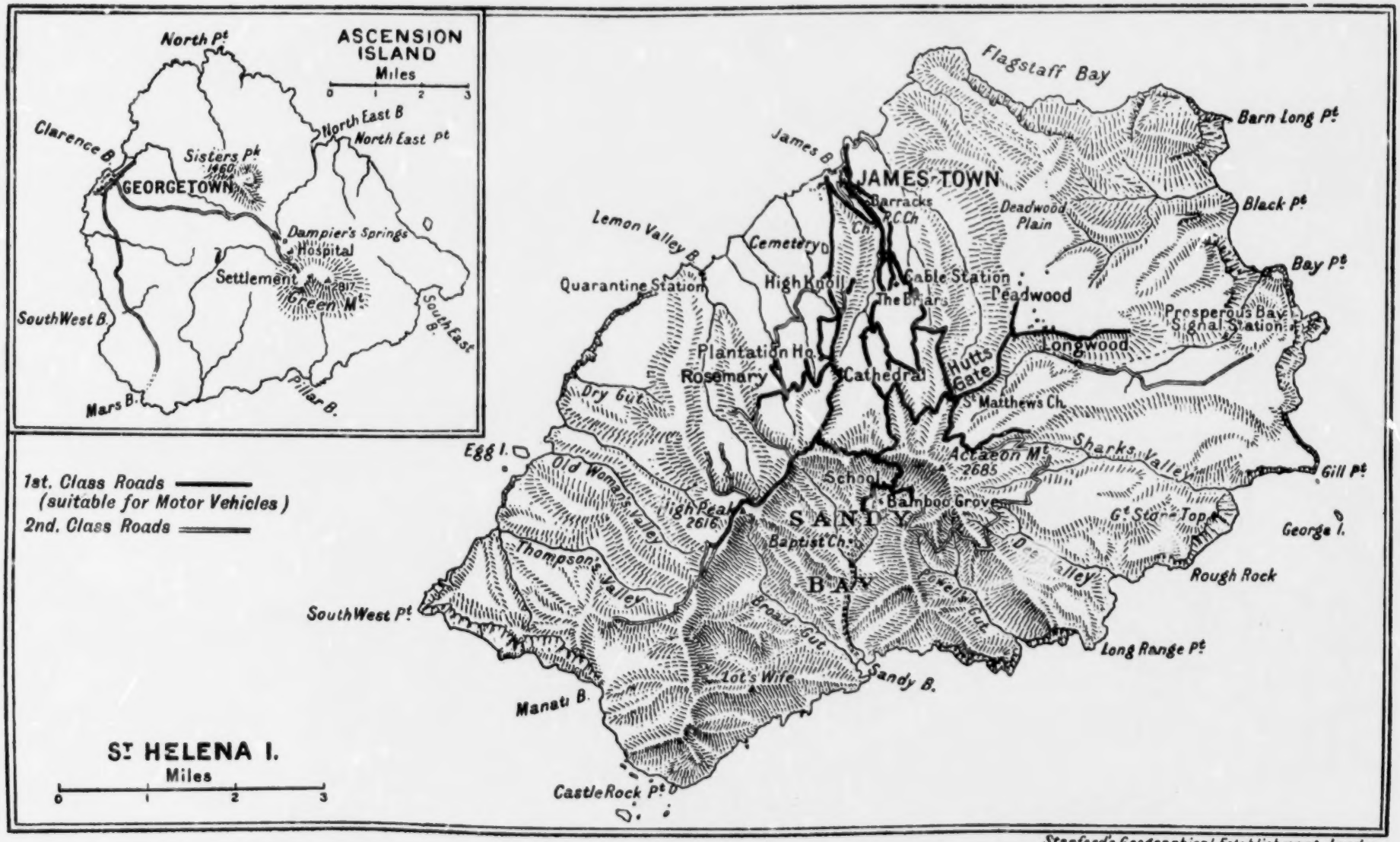
APPENDIX.

Books on St. Helena of General Interest.

Title.	*Publishers or Agents.*	*Price.*
"A History of the Island of St. Helena," 1808, by T. H. Brooke. 2nd Edition, 1824.	Publishers to East India Company.	—
"St. Helena," by J. C. Mellis, 1875 ...	L. Reeve & Co., London.	£2 2s.
"St. Helena—the Historic Island," 1903, by E. L. Jackson.	Ward, Lock & Co., Ltd., London.	—
*"Napoleon in Exile," 1915, by Norwood Young. (Two Volumes).	Stanley Paul & Co., London.	£1 12s.
"St. Helena Who's Who," 1919, by Arnold Chaplin.	A. L. Humphreys, London.	—
"On board a Union Steamer," 1822, by Capt. S. P. Oliver.	W. H. Allen & Co., Ltd., London.	8s.
"Campbell's Political Survey of Great Britain," 1774.	—	—
"A Tour through St. Helena," by Capt. John Barnes, R.N., 1817.	J. M. Richardson, London.	—
"Six months on Ascension," by Mrs. Gill, 1878.	John Murray, London.	Out of print.
"Tracts relative to the Island of St. Helena," by Beatson, London, 1816.	G. and W. Nicol, and J. Booth, London.	—
"Extracts from Records of St. Helena," by H. R. Janisch, C.M.G., 2nd Edition, 1908.	"Guardian" Printing Office, Jamestown.	—
"History of St. Helena," English Historical Review, by Sir William Foster, July, 1919.	—	—
"The Loss and Recapture of St. Helena," by C. R. Boxer, The Mariners Mirror No. 4, October, 1930.	—	—
"The Earliest Exile of St. Helena Fernao Lopez," by Hugh Clifford, Blackwoods Magazine, May, 1903.	—	—
"Report to the Secretary of State for India in Council on the Records of the India Office," by F. C. Danvers, 1888.	His Majesty's Stationery Office.	—
"The Africa Pilot," Part II, 8th Edition, 1930.	His Majesty's Stationery Office.	—
"A Historical Geography of the British Colonies," by Sir C. P. Lucas, Vol. III, Oxford, 1913.	—	—
"The Voyage of the Beagle," by Charles Darwin, Many Editions.	—	—
"Ste. Hélène," by E. Masselin, Henri Plon, Paris, 1862.	—	—
"St. Helena by a Bird of Passage," 1865.	Houlston and Wright, London.	—
"A Guide to St. Helena," by Joseph Lockwood, 1851.	Geo. Gibb, St. Helena.	—
"A Few Notes on St. Helena," by Benjamin Grant, 1883.	—	—

* This work contains a bibliography of 172 publications referring to the captivity of the Emperor Napoleon in St. Helena.

Title	*Publishers or Agents.*	*Price.*
"A Description of the Island of St. Helena," Anonymous. 1805.	R. Phillips, London.	—
"Report on the Agricultural Resources of St. Helena," by D. Morris, Reprinted in 1906. (Cd. 3248, Colonial Report Misc. No. 38.)	His Majesty's Stationery Office.	3½d.
"Geological Notes on St. Helena, by various writers, with remarks on the Economic Geology of that Island, and Geological Map," by Sir Albert Kitson, C.M.G., C.B.E., April, 1931, (Colonial No. 66).	His Majesty's Stationery Office.	1s. 3d.
"Report on the Fisheries of St. Helena," by J. T. Cunningham, M.A., F.Z.S., 1910. (Cd. 4998, Colonial Report Misc. No. 69.)	His Majesty's Stationery Office.	1½d.
"Report on the Marine Molluscan Fauna of the Island of St. Helena," by Edgar A. Smith, 1890. Proceedings of Zoological Society of London, 1890, Part II, pp. 247–317.	—	—
"The Marine Fisheries and Invertebrates of St. Helena," by J. T. Cunningham, 1911.	—	—
"The Manatee of St. Helena," by T. H. Mortensen, Copenhagen, 1933.	—	—
"Ste. Hélène," par Octave Aubry ...	Flammarion, Paris.	25 francs.
"Island Life" by A. R. Wallace, 1880	MacMillan & Co., London.	—



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Report of the Commission [Colonial No. 145] 7s. (7s. 6d.)

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Report by Major G. St. J. Orde Browne, O.B.E. [Colonial No. 150] 2s. (2s. 3d.)

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ANNUAL REPORT OF THE SOCIAL AND ECONOMIC PROGRESS OF THE PEOPLE OF ST. HELENA FOR 1938

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I.—GEOGRAPHY, CLIMATE, AND HISTORY.

The Island of St. Helena, about 10½ miles long and 6½ broad, lies in the South Atlantic Ocean in latitude 15° 55′ South and longitude 5° 42′ West. It was discovered by João da Nova probably in May, 1502, on his return voyage to Lisbon from India. Until 1588, when Cavendish visited it, the situation of the Island was kept a secret, and it then served as a place of refuge and refreshment for the vessels of all nations until 1659, when it was annexed by the East India Company. With the exception of a few months when it was captured on New Year's Day, 1673, by the Dutch and recaptured on the 5th May, 1673, by Sir Richard Munden, it remained in possession of the Company until the 22nd April, 1834, when it was brought under the direct Government of the Crown by the Government of India Act of 1833.

The Crown did not assume occupation of the Island until the 24th February, 1836, when Major-General Middlemore landed with a small garrison. With the increase in shipping

from the East the Colony enjoyed about 30 years of great prosperity but the opening of the Suez Canal in 1869 caused trade to be diverted to the Mediterranean. With the number of ships calling at Jamestown steadily decreasing every year St. Helena entered on a severe economic decline from which it has not yet emerged.

The climate of St. Helena has been the subject of acute controversy in the past, but it is now generally conceded that it is mild and equable and very healthy.

The four seasons of the year are not sharply differentiated. Spring may be said to exist from October to December, summer from January to March, autumn from April to June and winter from July to September.

Although the Island is situated in the heart of the South East Trades and surrounded by the cold South Atlantic current there are considerable varieties of temperature and rainfall between the coastal and hill zones.

In Jamestown the average annual rainfall is about 9 inches whilst in the hills it averages between 30 and 40 inches. Temperatures show similar differences. In Jamestown it varies between 68° and 90° in summer and between 57° and 70° in the winter. On the hills it is about 10° colder.

Storms are very uncommon and although the trade wind blows steadily throughout the year it rarely exceeds 50 miles per hour. Thunderstorms are almost unknown, the last one recorded being in 1897 when hail fell. Four earthquake tremors have been recorded in 200 years, the last being in 1864.

The climate, generally, is completely free from any of the evils of tropical or sub-tropical climates and no particular precautions are needed. The sun may be oppressive at times of exceptional drought and in the summer in Jamestown, but fatal results from exposure to it are extremely rare.

II.—GOVERNMENT.

By an Act of William IV, dated the 28th of August, 1833, the Island of St. Helena, as from the 22nd April, 1834, was transferred from the East India Company and became vested in the Crown.

Provision for the authority and appointment of Governor, for the establishment of a Council to assist the Governor and for the making and promulgation of laws, was made by a Royal Order in Council dated the 12th of October, 1835. This Order was revoked by an Order dated the 27th of July, 1863, when fresh provision was made.

The Executive Council as it exists at present was established by "The St. Helena Order-in-Council, 1929", revoking previous Orders. By Instructions issued on the 5th of June, 1929, it is provided that the Council shall consist of the Senior Military Officer in Command of regular troops in the Island and of the person holding the substantive appointment of Government Secretary of the Island, as *ex officio* Members, and of such other persons as may from time to time be appointed. Provision was also included for the appointment of Extraordinary Members on special occasions.

At the present time there are three unofficial Members of Council.

Ascension.

By Letters Patent dated the 12th of September, 1922, Ascension became a Dependency of St. Helena, and it was provided that the Governor and Executive Council of St. Helena should have the same powers in relation to Ascension as they possess in relation to St. Helena. The local Manager of Cable and Wireless, Limited, is appointed as Resident Magistrate and is a Member of the Executive Council of St. Helena.

Tristan Da Cunha.

By Letters Patent dated the 12th of January, 1938, Tristan Da Cunha and the associated Islands of Nightingale, Inaccessible and Gough were made Dependencies of St. Helena.

III.—POPULATION.

At the time of its discovery in 1502, St. Helena was uninhabited. From 1502 until 1659 it was used by ships of all nations as a place where travellers and seamen might recuperate, and where fresh water and supplies might be obtained. In 1659 the East India Company sent John Dutton with a few soldiers and followers to annex the Island and form a settlement. These persons constituted the original European settlement of the Island, which from time to time was added to by more settlers and soldiers from England. Slaves from Africa and Asia, and in particular from Madagascar, were introduced, and in 1810 there was a large importation of Chinese workmen. This was followed in 1840 by a considerable influx of liberated African slaves. A few years later the St. Helena Regiment was recruited in England for service in the Island. The men of this Regiment were given certain facilities in regard to the acquisition of land and many of them formed permanent associations with the Island by intermarriage.

The Island population to-day is largely of mixed origin. Many of the present inhabitants bear the same names as the early settlers and some families are able to trace their descent to

the refugees from the City of London after its destruction by fire in 1666. The language of the Island has always been English, and the English environment has become firmly established.

The population as ascertained by the Census taken in the year 1931 is classified as under:—

	Males.	*Females.*	
Islanders	1,825	2,026	3,851
Other British Residents ...	77	65	142
Other Nationals	2	—	2
	1,904	2,091	3,995

The distribution of the population is shown in the following tables:—

District.	*Males.*	*Females.*	*Total.*
Jamestown, including the Briars and Ruperts Valley	706	823	1,529
Half Tree Hollow and Ladder Hill (including Garrison)	227	263	490
St. Paul's	157	173	330
High Point, Farm Lodge, Rosemary and Cleughs Plain ...	140	155	295
Blue Hill	140	124	264
Sandy Bay	143	146	289
Longwood and Hutt's Gate ...	391	407	798
	1,904	2,091	3,995

The estimated population on 31st December, 1938, was 4,474.

Births and Deaths, 1932–1938.

	1932.	*1933.*	*1934.*	*1935.*	*1936.*	*1937.*	*1938.*
Births	152	116	101	150	134	132	168
Deaths	58	68	47	45	66	32	61
Infant mortality per 1,000 births ...	131·5	172·4	138·6	80·00	126·87	45·45	107·14
Still-births (not included in above) ...			...	7	8	8	5
Illegitimate births (included in above)			...	33	36	25	38
Deaths of infants under 1 year old ...			...	12	17	6	18

The population of Ascension as ascertained by the Census taken in the year 1931 is classified as under:—

St. Helenians	152
Other British Residents	36
	188

The population on the 31st December, 1938, was:—

St. Helenians	108
Other British Residents	51
	159

IV.—HEALTH.

The Medical Establishment of the Colony is as follows:—

Senior Medical Officer.
Medical Officer.
Matron.
Nursing Sister.
Four Nurses.

Towards the end of the year the Government entered into an arrangement with a private dental practitioner whereby, in return for a fixed grant from Government funds, he is to provide free dental services to school children and to the poor.

The general health of the population throughout the year was affected by lack of employment and increased malnutrition was evident. The people as a whole have always been susceptible to ailments of the influenza type and there was a marked increase in this disease throughout the year particularly during an unusually severe winter.

A case of anthrax was unusual, this disease not having been recorded for very many years. Cases of mild chickenpox appeared among the school children from time to time. Five cases of Beri-beri were admitted to hospital in the year and efforts to combat this disease are being made by the free issue of vegetables and yeast tablets to the poorer members of the population.

Civil Hospital.—There are 19 beds at the civil hospital and the number of admissions was 321. This figure is unusually high, but the inhabitants are encouraged to enter the hospital for treatment rather than to remain at home, often in the most unsatisfactory surroundings.

Infant Welfare Clinics.—Two centres for Child Welfare were opened during the year and have been well attended. The first centre was opened in Jamestown in February and the second at Hutt's Gate in October, the former has 70 children on the register with an average attendance of 25, the corresponding figures for the Hutt's Gate Centre are 77 and 65.

Much valuable work has been done at these centres.

Poor House and Lunatic Asylum.—These two institutions are under the management and control of the Poor Relief Board, the medical supervision being the charge of the Senior Medical Officer. The health of the inmates has been good, but there is wide scope for improvement in the accommodation provided at both places.

Port Health.—The Senior Medical Officer is also Port Health Officer.

V.—HOUSING.

The conditions of the housing throughout the Colony is one of the chief problems before the Government. During the year, five new cottages each with an acre of good cultivable land were completed and the construction of two others was begun. It is hoped to accelerate this programme in the future.

The preliminary work has also been undertaken for the repair and reconstruction of cottages in the country districts by the issue of material against repayment by instalments. In Jamestown the problem of improving the housing is more complex and cannot be undertaken without skilled advice. The appointment of a qualified Public Works Engineer has, however, been approved.

VI.—NATURAL RESOURCES.

Agricultural and Horticultural Products.

Much progress has been made during the year with the development of the agricultural station in order that it may become the centre for agricultural and horticultural information based upon the results of experiment.

Measures for the prevention of soil erosion have also been taken at Half Tree Hollow and a beginning has been made with the introduction of " terracing " in the gardens that form part of the Government's Country Housing Scheme. The planting of " live " hedges around the Government estates has also been completed and experience gained in the construction of dry stone walls.

Lily Bulbs.—During April, 9,250 bulbs of *Lilium longiflorum* were exported. This was an increase of 3,500 over the previous year. The progress made by this industry continues to be very promising. With the help of the Director, Royal Botanic Gardens, Kew, a display of the lilies in flower was arranged for a few weeks at the St. Helena stall in the Empire Exhibition at Glasgow. Photographs of a field of lilies in full flower, taken in St. Helena, were also exhibited. At the close of the Exhibition these were passed to the Director of the Imperial Institute for permanent display. Copies were also made for future use at various exhibitions by the Colonial Empire Marketing Board.

The small plots of *Lilium speciosum rubrum* and *Lilium myriophyllum* var. *superbum* (*L. sulphureum*) were increased as much as possible and the prospects for producing the bulbs of these lilies for export continues to be promising.

Five hundred bulbs of the Japanese *Lilium longiflorum* were imported from England in March and commenced to grow

immediately after being planted. The first flowering took place in June-July, and, after a brief rest, the plants made a secondary growth towards the end of the year, which brought them into line with the flowering season of the local lilies. It is satisfactory to record that the second growth was stronger than the first and the number of flowers borne by each stem increased by more than 100 per cent.

Pyrethrum.—The small plots established in the trial grounds of the department again flowered very well at the end of the year and continue to justify the view that the production of pyrethrum for export is well worth following up.

The wet weather during the flowering period has shown that the drying of flowers on any large scale will require provision for drying sheds at Jamestown where the fresh flowers could be taken and prepared for shipment.

New Potatoes.—Previous attempts to ship potatoes to England for the Christmas market have been inconclusive, and it is considered that the packing was mainly responsible for failures. Compared with other exporting countries the difficulties of despatch from St. Helena are the time which must elapse between digging and arrival at the market, which amounts to some 18 to 21 days, and the fact that the potatoes must be carried through the equatorial belt. Attempts have, therefore, been made to ascertain the best method of packing and, at the end of November, 18 packages containing 936 lb. of potatoes were despatched to England for inspection by the Department of Scientific and Industrial Research. The report of the Department on the different methods of packing which were used in this shipment has not yet been received.

Geranium Oil.—A still of much larger capacity than the one previously used was constructed locally and erected on a suitable site at the Agricultural Station. Although the still cannot be considered entirely satisfactory for experimental work, a few ounces of oil of each of the five different kinds of Pelargoniums under cultivation were obtained by the end of the year. It is planned to obtain about 1½ lb. of oil from each variety before submitting them for examination, but, as the geranium plots are small, it is estimated that this amount cannot be obtained before the latter part of 1939.

A quantity of lemon grass was distilled and gave a good clear oil.

Five pints of Eucalyptus oil (*Eucalyptus globulus*) was also distilled and sent to the hospital. This proved to be very useful during the epidemic of colds and influenza which prevailed during the winter months.

Carob Beans (*Ceratonia Siligua*).—Early in the year seeds of this tree were obtained from France. Some 200 plants were raised and planted and are growing satisfactorily.

Fodder Crops.—Uba Cane. The plants in the Nursery continue to flourish and a few were used to provide material for planting two small plots in the field below Plantation House.

Napier Grass.—These plants were raised from seeds obtained from Amani and proved a better type than those propagated from the solitary plant discovered at Prospect and removed to Scotland in 1936. They have made good growth and will provide a good quantity of planting material.

Dunn's Finger Grass.—This grass has proved to be the most successful of five different kinds obtained from the Department of Agriculture, South Africa, and a larger plot has been planted on a steep slope where the soil is of a friable and dusty nature. By the end of the year the grass was forming an excellent cover.

St. Helena Growers' Association.—Progress was made in the sale of produce to vessels of the Union-Castle Line, and the gross receipts since the inauguration of this trade were:—1931, £250; 1932, £339; 1933, £318; 1934, £368; 1935, £427; 1936, £578; 1937, £645; and 1938, £724.

Rat Campaign.—26,946 rats were destroyed during the course of the year.

Fibre Industry.—All the flax mills were closed for the greater part of the year on account of the fall in world prices.

Particulars of production and exports, etc., are as follows:—

	Produced	*Exported*	*Average price per ton London*		
	Tons	*Tons*	£	*s.*	*d.*
1934—Fibre	821	568	12	0	0
Tow	401	447	8	0	0
1935—Fibre	578	857	13	15	0
Tow	220	319	9	10	0
1936—Fibre	850	804	17	8	4
Tow	426	425	13	4	2
1937—Fibre	1,046	1,090	23	5	0
Tow	486	418	15	3	0
1938—Fibre	329	284	16	7	6
Tow	200	200	11	11	8

ASCENSION.

At Green Mountain, Cable and Wireless, Limited, possess a farm for the maintenance of imported animals, and gardens for the cultivation of vegetables. At the end of the year the stock consisted of 21 cattle, 496 sheep and some pigs.

VII.—COMMERCE.

The main foodstuffs that are required to be imported into the Colony are flour, rice, sugar, lard and lard substitutes, margarine, salted meat and provisions.

The principal exports are New Zealand Fibre (*Phormium Tenax*) and its bi-product tow, which together form 87 per cent. of the total exports.

There is a small trade in supplying vegetables to ships.

During the year under review the London market price of fibre fell to a lower level than that obtaining for two years past and resulted in the closing of a number of flax mills and a substantial decrease in the exports of this commodity.

The aggregate value of external trade, exclusive of bullion and specie, for the year amounted to £44,394, as compared with £63,771 for the previous year. Imports showed a decrease of £215 and exports a decrease of £19,162.

The following tables show the principal heads and respective values for the past five years:—

Imports	*1934* £	*1935* £	*1936* £	*1937* £	*1938* £
Food, drink and tobacco ...	17,545	17,487	18,861	21,241	21,756
Raw materials and articles mainly unmanufactured ...	1,145	966	1,152	1,315	1,053
Articles wholly or mainly manufactured	13,986	11,371	12,823	15,272	14,804
Miscellaneous and unclassified	—	—	—	—	—
	32,676	29,824	32,836	37,828	37,613
Bullion and specie	800	—	—	—	—
	£33,476	29,824	32,836	37,828	37,613

Domestic Exports	*1934* £	*1935* £	*1936* £	*1937* £	*1938* £
New Zealand fibre	5,759	9,782	12,989	21,210	4,006
New Zealand tow	2,457	2,005	4,299	4,107	1,891
New Zealand rope and twine	498	237	417	292	337
Other articles (wool, etc.) ...	100	503	161	334	547
	£8,814	12,527	17,866	25,943	6,781

Re-exports					
Other articles	100	258	387	431	1,933
Bullion and specie	35	1,440	300	30	—
	£135	1,698	687	461	1,933

IMPORTS.

The following table shows the value and percentage of the total imports (excluding bullion and specie) for the past five years, and the principal supplying countries:—

Country	1934 £	1934 Per cent.	1935 £	1935 Per cent.	1936 £	1936 Per cent.	1937 £	1937 Per cent.	1938 £	1938 Per cent.
United Kingdom ...	21,329	65	18,964	63	22,130	67	26,687	70	23,553	63
South Africa ...	6,345	20	2,303	8	2,824	9	2,946	8	1,953	5
British India ...			1,678	6	2,414	7	2,192	6	2,282	6
Rest of Empire			2,384	8	2,148	7	2,348	6	1,870	5
Total Empire ...	27,674		25,329		29,516		34,173		29,658	
Foreign Countries...	5,002	15	4,495	15	3,320	10	3,655	10	7,955	21
Total ...	32,676		29,824		32,836		37,828		37,613	

Importations from South Africa consisted mainly of grain, meal, wines, tobacco, fruit and coal.

Importations from other Empire countries consisted mainly of rice, flour, butter, tea and cheese.

Importations from Foreign countries consisted mainly of petrol and paraffin oil (from U.S.A., value £1,717), meat, tea, milk, lard, flour, matches and timber.

EXPORTS.

The following table shows the value and percentage of the total domestic exports for the past five years, and the principal countries of destination:—

Country	1934 £	1934 Per cent.	1935 £	1935 Per cent.	1936 £	1936 Per cent.	1937 £	1937 Per cent.	1938 £	1938 Per cent.
United Kingdom ...	8,392	95	11,155	89	15,570	87	25,651	99	5,993	88
South Africa ...	422	5	1,202	10	2,296	13	292	1	440	7
Total Empire ...	8,814		12,357		17,866		25,943		6,433	
Foreign Countries...			170	1					348	5
Total ...	8,814		12,527		17,866		25,943		6,781	

The decrease in the value of exports is due to the closing of eight fibre mills owing to the decrease in the market value of fibre.

Re-exports.

The following table shows the value of re-exports (excluding bullion and specie) for the past five years, and countries of destination:—

Country	*1934*	*1935*	*1936*	*1937*	*1938*
United Kingdom... ...	19	123	15	75	12
South Africa	81	135	372	356	173
High Seas (Cableship *Norseman*)	—	—	—	—	1,700*
Argentine...	—	—	—	—	48
	100	258	387	431	1,933

* Submarine Cable.

Imports.

The following table shows the values of the principal imports for the years 1937 and 1938, together with the increases or decreases, and the principal sources of supply:—

Commodity	*Principal source of supply*	*1937* £	*1938* £	*Decrease—Increase+* £
Lard and lard substitutes and margarine	United Kingdom, Argentine ...	2,222	2,153	— 69
Butter	South Africa, Eire, New Zealand, Australia, Argentine ...	687	862	+ 175
Meat	United Kingdom, Denmark, Argentine, Lithuania	954	1,276	+ 322
Confectionery ...	United Kingdom	646	706	+ 60
Flour	United Kingdom, Australia, S. Africa, Argentine	5,138	4,582	— 556
Provisions	United Kingdom	1,105	1,743	+ 638
Rice	British India, Argentine, Siam...	2,056	2,418	+ 362
Sugar	United Kingdom	1,923	1,867	— 56
Tobacco and cigarettes	United Kingdom and S. Africa	1,080	1,037	— 43
Drapery, apparel, etc.	United Kingdom	2,902	3,261	+ 359
Motor cars and lorries, parts and accessories ...	United Kingdom	1,785	740	—1,045
Petrol and oil ...	U.S.A.	926	1,787	+ 861
Coal and coke ...	United Kingdom and S. Africa ...	1,236	324	— 912
Hardware, Machinery, etc.	United Kingdom	2,373	2,813	+ 440
Beer, wines and spirits	United Kingdom and S. Africa ...	1,656	1,697	+ 41

The undermentioned quantities are also recorded:—

		1937	*1938*	*Decrease − Increase +*
Beer, wines and spirits	...	6,823 gal.	7,208 gal.	+ 385 gal.
Tobacco and cigarettes	...	6,643 lb.	7,061 lb.	+ 418 lb.

There was an increase in the value of imports under food, drink and tobacco (£515), and a decrease under raw materials and articles mainly unmanufactured (£262), and articles wholly or mainly manufactured (£468). The principal increases in importations being butter, meat, provisions, rice, drapery, petrol and oil, hardware and machinery. The principal decreases occurred in importations of flour, motor cars and lorries, etc., and coal and coke.

EXPORTS.

The following table shows the quantities of the principal domestic exports during the past five years:—

Commodity	*1934* *Tons*	*1935* *Tons*	*1936* *Tons*	*1937* *Tons*	*1938* *Tons*
Fibre	568	857	804	1,090	284
Tow	447	319	425½	418	199½
Rope and Twine	25	11	17½	11½	14
Totals...	1,040	1,187	1,247	1,519½	497½

The decrease in tonnage of exports is accounted for by the closing of eight flax mills owing to the decrease in the market value of fibre.

Fibre and tow is shipped to England, and rope and twine to South Africa.

The following tables show the imports and exports respectively of coin and notes:—

Imports of coin and notes	*1934* £	*1935* £	*1936* £	*1937* £	*1938* £
Coin	800	—	—	—	—
Notes	200	—	—	1,000	—
Totals	£1,000	—	—	1,000	—

Exports of coin and notes	*1934* £	*1935* £	*1936* £	*1937* £	*1938* £
Coin	35	1,440	300	30	—
Notes	—	361	900	3,000	1,300
Totals	£35	1,801	1,200	3,030	1,300

VIII.—LABOUR.

The labour position in the Colony continues to be unsatisfactory, and the closing of all the fibre mills for the greater part of the year necessitated the employment of large numbers of unemployed on various minor works as a form of relief.

At the close of the year arrangements were being completed for four mills to be operated on a Government subsidy. The agreement provides for paid holidays, a minimum wage of 10s. 6d. per week, overtime rates and a 50-hour week for the workers.

The numbers for whom no permanent employment can be provided continue to increase, and if the claims of youths between the ages of 18 and 21 are taken into consideration, it is estimated that with all the flax mills in operation 180-200 men would still have no permanent work and would have to be employed on public relief works. It is only rarely, however, that the total number of mills, nine in all, are in operation continuously.

The most notable advance in the improvement of labour conditions was the increase in the Government rate of wage from 12s. to 15s. per week.

IX.—WAGES AND COST OF LIVING.

Wages for skilled and semi-skilled workmen vary from 2s. to 3s. 6d. per day.

The Government wage for adult unskilled labour is 2s. 6d. per day amounting to 15s. per week of 45 hours, the half-day on Saturday counting as a full day.

In the flax mills the average daily rate for men is 1s. 9d. for a nine-hour day.

In domestic service the monthly wage with board and lodging for housemaids varies from 10s. to £2, for cooks from 30s. to £2, and for male servants from 30s. to £4 15s.

Good meat is obtainable at 1s. per lb.; fish is very cheap, but the supply is extremely limited and scarce in the country districts. Eggs vary according to season from 1s. 6d. to 2s. per dozen, fresh butter is 3s. per lb.; and imported butter 2s. per lb.; fresh milk is 5d. per imperial pint, and the price of fresh vegetables varies with the supply which is very limited at certain seasons. Rice, which forms the staple article of diet of St. Helenians, is 2½d. per lb., and potatoes vary throughout the year from 6d. to 2s. per gallon of 7 lb.

Limited accommodation is available for visitors, and St. Helena has attractions as a place of residence for those who seek a congenial climate and quietude. It is estimated that two people could live comfortably and in full enjoyment of all the Island has to offer including the cost of motor transport, which is heavy, on £500 to £550 a year. With a more limited range of activity two people could live on considerably less.

X.—EDUCATION AND WELFARE INSTITUTIONS.

There was no change in the educational system during the year 1938. There are eight elementary schools and the Superintendent's class for pupil teachers and for those who wish to avail themselves of the opportunity of continuing their studies in some subjects, which include English, French, Latin, arithmetic, algebra and book-keeping.

Of these eight elementary or primary schools three are under Government direction, viz.:—

The Boys' School in Jamestown.
The Girls' School in Jamestown.
The Country School at St. Paul's.

The management of the three Government schools comes directly under the Board of Education. Of the five other schools, the three Hussey Charity Schools are managed by the Local Trustees of the Charity, the Sandy Bay School by the St. Helena Benevolent Society and the Holbech Memorial School at Blue Hill by the diocese of St. Helena.

The expenditure on education as approved in the Colony's Estimates was £1,180 which included a grant-in-aid to the non-official schools of £280.

The numbers of children attending the eight schools are as follows:—

Government:		
The Boys' School	82	
The Girls' School	142	
The Country School	108	
		332
Non-Government.		
Half Tree Hollow	121	
Hussey Charity	120	
Hutt's Gate	147	
Sandy Bay	57	
Blue Hill	35	
		480
Total		812

There is no secondary education in the Colony. There are no exclusively European schools in the Colony and all the schools are of the same class and standing. Education is wholly primary with the exception of a pupil teachers class held one day a week by the Superintendent of Education.

The teaching staffs are recruited under a system of pupil teachers who take a four years' course under the direction of the Superintendent of Education.

Vocational Training.

The woodwork class at the Government Boys' School has been extended and has proved useful in teaching the senior boys of the two town schools the elements of carpentry and how to handle and take care of tools.

The continuation class for girls, also started during the year, is a continuance of the needlework begun at the primary school and belongs to the post-elementary period.

The medical officers keep in touch with the schools and send in their own reports to the Government. Instruction in simple hygiene is part of the school's curriculum.

The facilities for playing games at the schools are poor and should be improved as soon as funds permit. Outside of school the boys enjoy opportunities of cricket and football practice in which many learn to excel and later on take their places in the Island leagues.

There is also room for a great deal of improvement in school buildings and equipment.

Religious instruction is given in all the schools and, of the 344 school population in Jamestown, 240 attend the Church Sunday School and others the Baptist and Salvation Army Sunday Schools. In addition there are vigorous groups of Boy Scouts and Girl Guides who, considering the poverty of the children and the very limited resources, reflect much credit on both movements and the labours of the organizers.

The close of the year marks the end of the Rev. Canon Walcott's long association with education in the Colony. His work, carried out often in the face of great difficulties, is deserving of the highest praise.

Welfare Institutions.

Infant Welfare Clinics have been opened at Jamestown and Hutt's Gate and it is hoped that two more clinics will be established in other areas in the coming year. The appointment of a Health Visitor has been approved. The grant of children's allowances in connection with unemployment relief, and the

free issue of cod liver oil and marmite to school children are other measures that have been adopted to deal with the prevailing poverty.

The local Friendly Societies have continued to maintain and improve their position in spite of heavy calls made upon them due to epidemics of influenza.

The Mechanics Society celebrated the centenary of its foundation in November when the anniversary meeting provided a remarkable demonstration of the strength and well-being of the Society.

Particulars of the societies are appended below:—

ST. HELENA FRIENDLY SOCIETIES.

Name.	*Membership.*	*Invested Funds* £
Men.		
Ancient Order of Foresters	350	1,493
Mechanics Society	509	1,183
Working Men's Christian Association ...	325	395
Poor Society	376	3,675
Total	1,560	
Women.		
Church Provident Society for Women ...	533	1,125
Children.		
Children's Benefit Society	246	138
Grand Total	2,339	

XI.—COMMUNICATIONS AND TRANSPORT.

There is a regular communication once a month with England and South Africa by the Union-Castle steamers. In addition an American Steamer of the American-African Line called on two occasions.

The vessels which called during the year were as follows:—

British vessels	31
British warships	5
American vessels	2
Other foreign vessels	4
Yachts	1
	43

Forty-one miles of road are maintained by the Public Works Department, and although grades are steep and in some places narrow, the roads of the Island compare very favourably with those in other countries.

Eighty-eight motor cars and lorries are registered and licensed.

There is no wireless station in St. Helena, but there is a cable station with communication to all parts of the world.

The Empire short-wave broadcasting service is received well in the Island.

There is regular postal communication each month between the Colony and England and South Africa. Mails are also made up as other occasions present themselves.

XII.—PUBLIC WORKS.

Unemployment relief measures have thrown a considerable burden on the Public Works Department throughout the year and much work has been done in repairing by-roads and paths in the country districts that are used by large numbers of pedestrians.

The road, water and drainage systems have been maintained at their usual standard.

The department has also completed three cottages in Jamestown, five in the country districts as well as an office and store for the Agricultural Department.

XIII.—JUSTICE, POLICE AND PRISONS.

In addition to all local Ordinances and Orders in force, the law of the Colony consists of so much of the law of England for the time being as is applicable in the light of local circumstances.

The Supreme Court of St. Helena, which is a Court of Record, was established by Order in Council of 13th February, 1839. Subsequent Orders extended its jurisdiction to Matrimonial and Divorce Cases. By an Order in Council of the 3rd October 1935, it is lawful for the Supreme Court to be held before the Governor of the Colony or other proper person appointed by him; and the Governor may be assisted at his discretion by Assessors who must be members of the Executive Council or Justices of the Peace.

There were three civil cases and eight criminal cases before the Supreme Court during the year.

Summary jurisdiction is exercised by the Magistrate and Justices of the Peace. There were 60 cases dealt with during the year as compared with 82 the previous year.

The Small Debts Court, which has jurisdiction up to sums not exceeding £25, is established by Ordinance No. 2 of 1905.

Nine cases were brought before the Court during the year as compared with two the previous year.

Gaol.—During the year 16 persons were committed to prison as compared with 18 in 1937.

Police.—There have been no serious criminal cases.

XIV.—LEGISLATION.

Ten Ordinances were enacted during the year, of which the most important were the Pasturage (Government Lands) Ordinance, repealing the Man and Horse and Botleys Lay (Regulations) Ordinance, 1843; Juries (Amendment) Ordinance; Plants Protection Ordinance; and the Recreation and Play Grounds Ordinance.

XV.—BANKING, CURRENCY, AND WEIGHTS AND MEASURES.

The Government Savings Bank is the only Banking institution in the Colony.

The aggregate balances of depositors accounts during the last five years were as follows:—

Year	*Balance of depositors at 31st December* £
1934	21,200
1935	22,527
1936	23,744
1937	25,033
1938	24,701

The total number of depositors on 31st December, 1938, was 237 as compared with 240 on the corresponding day of 1937.

The invested portion of the Savings Bank Deposits at the end of the year is represented by stock of the mean market value of £22,651.

By the St. Helena Coinage Order, 1925, all coins which under the Coinage Acts of 1870 and 1891 are legal tender in the United Kingdom, and all silver coins which under the Coinage Act, 1922, are legal tender in the Union of South Africa, are legal tender in the Island of St. Helena.

By the Weights and Measures Ordinance, 1905, the weights and measures for the time being lawfully in use in the United Kingdom and no others are to be used in St. Helena.

XVI.—PUBLIC FINANCE AND TAXATION.

Revenue and Expenditure.

The revenue collected during the year, including a free grant of £1,542 from the Colonial Development Fund, amounted to £26,912 being £41 below the Estimates, and showing a decrease of £14,524 as compared with the revenue of the previous year. Revenue, excluding Colonial Development Fund, was £560 below the Estimates. There was no grant-in-aid in 1938.

The decrease of Revenue as compared with the Estimates was mainly due to sales of stamps at St. Helena and Ascension being £1,064 below the estimate, and to waiving of the payment by Messrs. Cable and Wireless, Ltd., as from 25th April, 1938, on account of their occupation of Ascension Island which caused a decrease of £1,019; against which there were increases under customs duties £1,001 due to importation of petrol, oil, cigarettes and wines being greater than the amount estimated for and also under the following heads—port and marine, wharfage £162, rent of Government properties £181, and interest £109.

The following table shows the revenue and expenditure of the Colony for the last five years:—

Year.	*Revenue.*	*Grants by Colonial Development Fund.*	*Grants-in-aid by His Majesty's Treasury.*	*Total Revenue.*	*Total Expenditure.*
	£	£	£	£	£
1934 ...	21,974	—	2,500	24,474	23,792
1935 ...	21,089	—	—	21,089	20,487
1936 ...	20,198	—	3,000	23,198	19,569
1937 ...	41,186	250	—	41,436	23,191
1938 ...	25,370	1,542	—	26,912	29,930

The Revenue for the year 1938 as compared with the preceding year is summarised hereunder:—

	1937.	*1938.*
	£	£
Customs	5,276	6,251
Port and Marine	1,588	1,554
Licences, Taxes, etc.	676	648
Fees of Court or Office and Reimbursements...	740	770
Post Office	14,446	6,774
Revenue from Government Properties ...	1,125	1,441
Interest	226	459
Miscellaneous	39	67
Ascension	17,070	7,406
Grant-in-aid	—	—
Grant from Colonial Development Fund ...	250	1,542
	£41,436	£26,912

The Expenditure for the year as compared with the preceding year is as under:—

	1937.	*1938.*
	£	£
Pensions and Gratuities	1,542	1,120
Governor	1,087	1,604
Secretariat	1,565	1,356
Treasury, Customs, Port and Marine... ...	871	965
Post Office	1,117	1,034
Public Health	3,213	3,666
Education	1,207	1,270
Agriculture and Forestry	1,339	1,496
Police and Gaol...	880	943
Public Works Department and Recurrent ...	3,249	4,207
Miscellaneous	1,253	1,344
Ascension	2,521	2,787
Public Works Extraordinary	3,114	1,777
Colonial Development Fund	233	1,542
Unemployment Relief	—	4,819
	£23,191	£29,930

The Statement of the Assets and Liabilities of St. Helena as at 31st December, 1938, shows:

Assets £50,818. Liabilities £28,049.

Taxation.

The principal sources of taxation and the yield during the year 1938 were as follows:—

	£
Customs :—	
Import Duties	6,251
Port and Marine Dues :—	
Shipping Dues	192
Wharfage Dues	1,362
Licences :—	
Carriages, Carts, and Horses	36
Motor Cars and Lorries	261
Boats	122
Firearms and Game	28
Rates :—	
Water	135

Under the Customs (Amendment) Ordinance, 1938, the following alterations were made to the Customs Tariff (Part I of Schedule II):—

Item		
37c	Rice	General tariff 1s. 6d. per 112 lb. reduced to "Free."
50	Lard and lard substitutes.	Preferential tariff 2s. 1d. per 100 lb. reduced to "Free."
		General tariff 2s. 6d. per 100 lb. reduced to 2s. 1d.

These alterations were effective from 16th October, 1937.

Public Debt.

There is no public debt.

XVII.—MISCELLANEOUS.

A note on the land tenures of the Colony will be found in the Annual Report for 1934.

During the year five 1-acre plots of good cultivable land have been leased to St. Helenians in connection with the Colonial Development Fund Housing Scheme. The object of this scheme is to improve housing and by making a plot available for each cottage to assist the islanders in improving their standard of life.

Apart from unoccupied land known as " Crown Waste ", the Island is divided into large and small holdings, many of which however are held by a small number of persons. The acreages of these holdings are as follows:—

	No. of Holdings.
Under 10 acres	414
Over 10 and under 50	57
Over 50 and under 100	9
Over 100 and under 1,000	2
Over 1,000	Nil

The only legislation dealing with land is " The Conveyancing and Registration Ordinance, 1893 ", which simplifies conveyancing and provides for the registration of deeds.

The area of the Island is approximately 30,000 acres of which 8,600 acres are regarded as cultivable.

XVIII.—GENERAL.

His Excellency Henry Guy Pilling, C.M.G., assumed office as Governor and Commander-in-Chief on the 16th March, 1938.

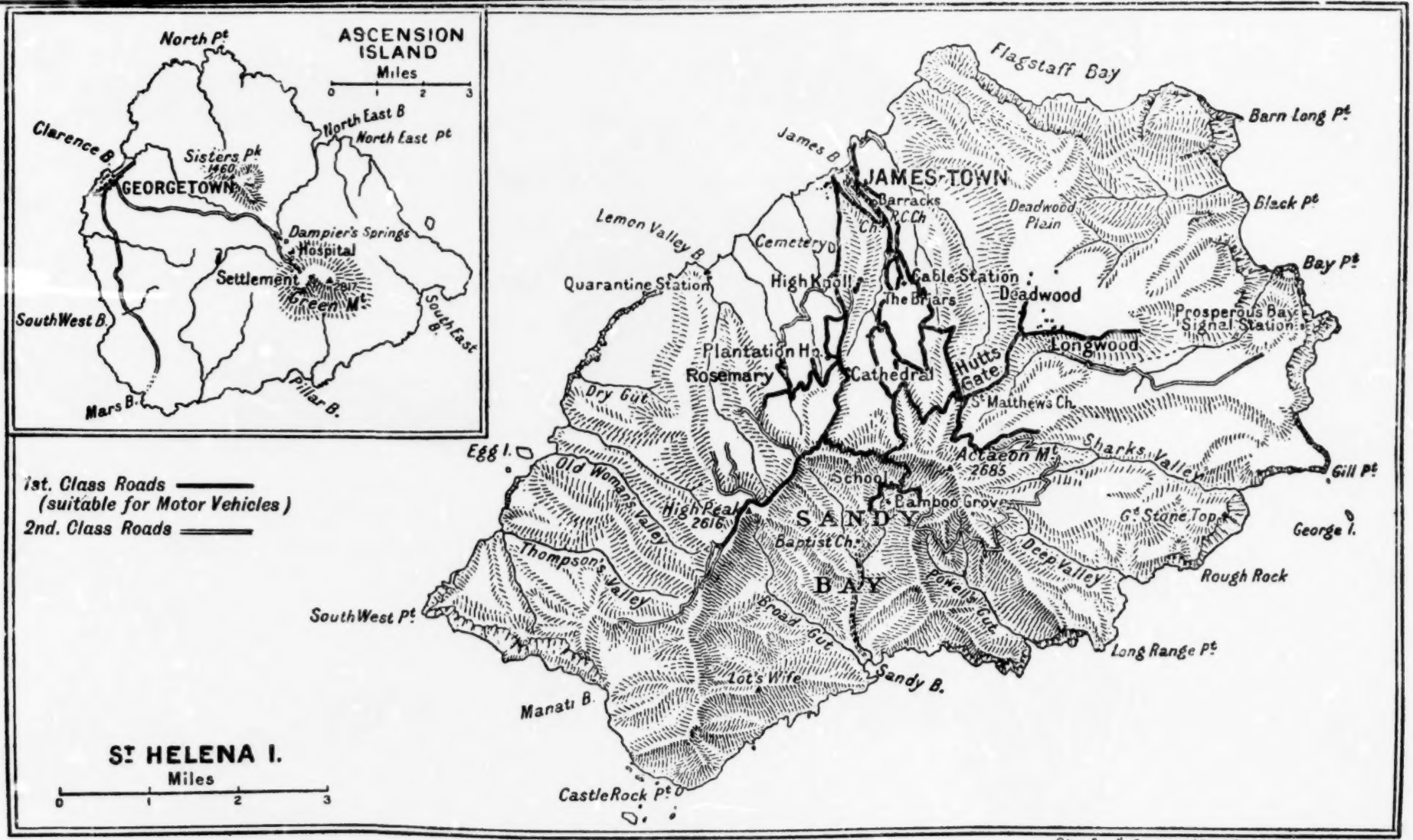
APPENDIX.

Books on St. Helena of General Interest.

Title.	*Publishers or Agents.*	*Price.*
"A History of the Island of St. Helena," 1808, by T. H. Brooke. 2nd Edition, 1824.	Publishers to East India Company.	—
"St. Helena," by J. C. Mellis, 1875 ...	L. Reeve & Co., London.	—
"St. Helena—the Historic Island," 1903, by E. L. Jackson.	Ward, Lock & Co., Ltd., London.	—
*"Napoleon in Exile," 1915, by Norwood Young. (Two Volumes).	Stanley Paul & Co., London.	£1 12s.
"St. Helena Who's Who," 1919, by Arnold Chaplin.	A. L. Humphreys, London.	—
"On board a Union Steamer," 1822, by Capt. S. P. Oliver.	W. H. Allen & Co., Ltd., London.	8s.
"Campbell's Political Survey of Great Britain," 1774.	—	—
"A Tour through St. Helena," by Capt. John Barnes, R.N., 1817.	J. M. Richardson, London.	—
"Six months on Ascension," by Mrs. Gill, 1878.	John Murray, London.	Out of print.
"Tracts relative to the Island of St. Helena," by Beatson, London, 1816.	G. and W. Nicol, and J. Booth, London.	—
"Extracts from Records of St. Helena," by H. R. Janisch, C.M.G., 2nd Edition, 1908.	"Guardian" Printing Office, Jamestown.	—
"History of St. Helena," by Sir William Foster (English Historical Review, July, 1919).	—	—
"The Loss and Recapture of St. Helena," by C. R. Boxer, The Mariners Mirror No. 4, October, 1930.	—	—
"The Earliest Exile of St. Helena Fernao Lopez," by Hugh Clifford, Blackwoods Magazine, May, 1903.	—	—
"Report to the Secretary of State for India in Council on the Records of the India Office," by F. C. Danvers, 1888.	His Majesty's Stationery Office.	—
"The Africa Pilot," Part II, 8th Edition, 1930.	His Majesty's Stationery Office.	—
"A Historical Geography of the British Colonies," by Sir C. P. Lucas, Vol. III, Oxford, 1913.	—	—
"The Voyage of the Beagle," by Charles Darwin, Many Editions.	—	—
"Ste. Hélène," by E. Masselin, Henri Plon, Paris, 1862.	—	—
"St. Helena by a Bird of Passage," 1865.	Houlston and Wright, London.	—
"A Guide to St. Helena," by Joseph Lockwood, 1851.	Geo. Gibb, St. Helena.	—
"A Few Notes on St. Helena," by Benjamin Grant, 1883.	—	—

* This work contains a bibliography of 172 publications referring to the captivity of the Emperor Napoleon in St. Helena.

Title.	*Publishers or Agents.*	*Price.*
"A Description of the Island of St. Helena," Anonymous. 1805.	R. Phillips, London.	—
"Report on the Agricultural Resources of St. Helena," by D. Morris, Reprinted in 1906. (Cd. 3248, Colonial Report Misc. No. 38.)	His Majesty's Stationery Office.	3½d.
"Geological Notes on St. Helena, by various writers, with remarks on the Economic Geology of that Island, and Geological Map," by Sir Albert Kitson, C.M.G., C.B.E., April, 1931, (Colonial No. 66).	His Majesty's Stationery Office.	1s. 3d.
"Report on the Fisheries of St. Helena," by J. T. Cunningham, M.A., F.Z.S., 1910. (Cd. 4998, Colonial Report Misc. No. 69.)	His Majesty's Stationery Office.	1½d.
"Report on the Marine Molluscan Fauna of the Island of St. Helena," by Edgar A. Smith, 1890. Proceedings of Zoological Society of London, 1890, Part II, pp. 247–317.	—	—
"The Marine Fisheries and Invertebrates of St. Helena," by J. T. Cunningham, 1911.	—	—
"The Manatee of St. Helena," by T. H. Mortensen, Copenhagen, 1933.	—	—
"Ste. Hélène," par Octave Aubry ...	Flammarion, Paris.	25 francs.
"St. Helena," (English translation of "St. Hélène" by Octave Aubry).	Victor Gollancz & Co. Ltd.	18s.
"IslandLife," by A. R. Wallace, 1880	MacMillan & Co., London.	—
"St. Helena, 1502–1938" by Philip Gosse, 1938.	Cassell & Co., Ltd.	15s.



Stanford's Geographical Establishment, London

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